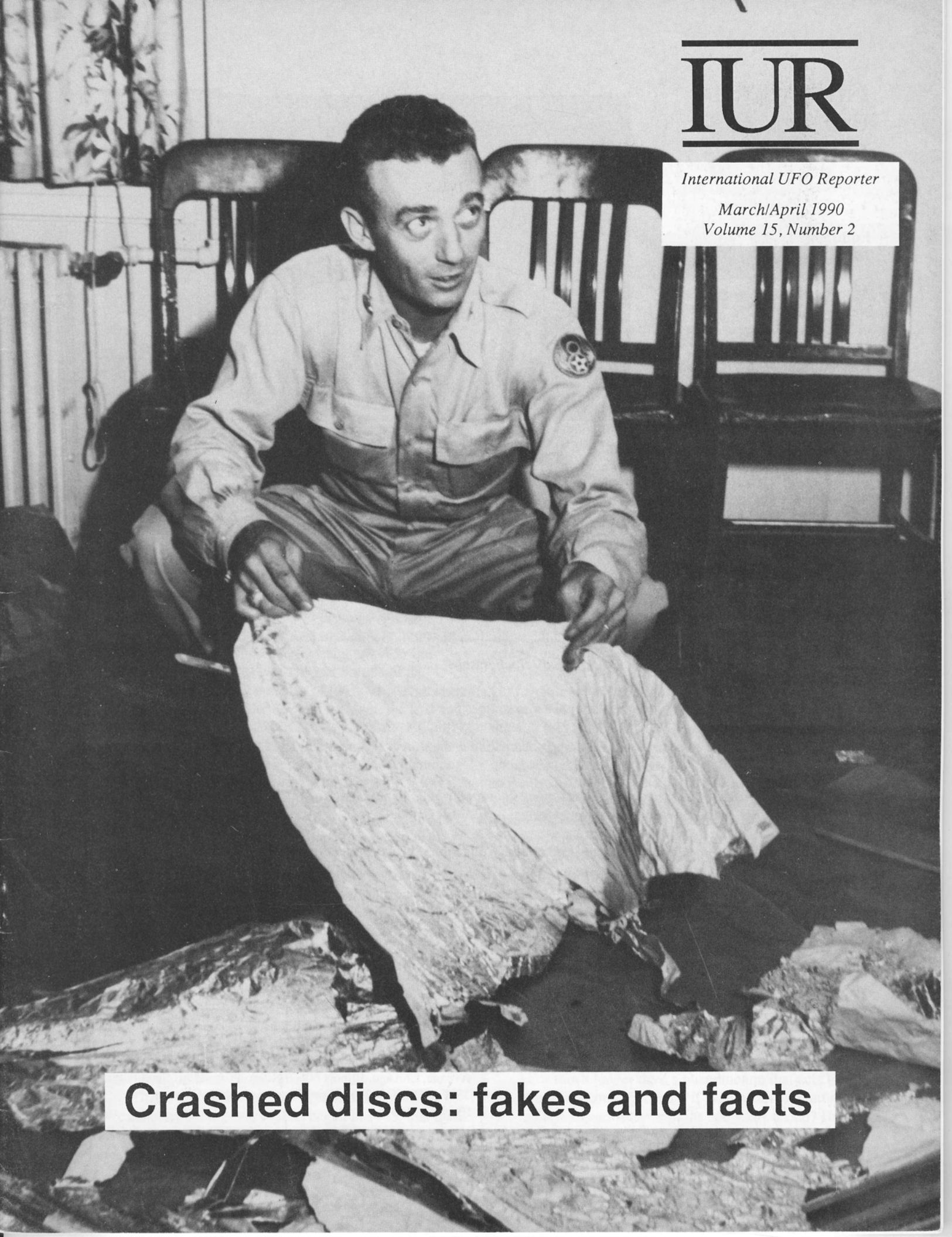

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Crashed discs: fakes and facts

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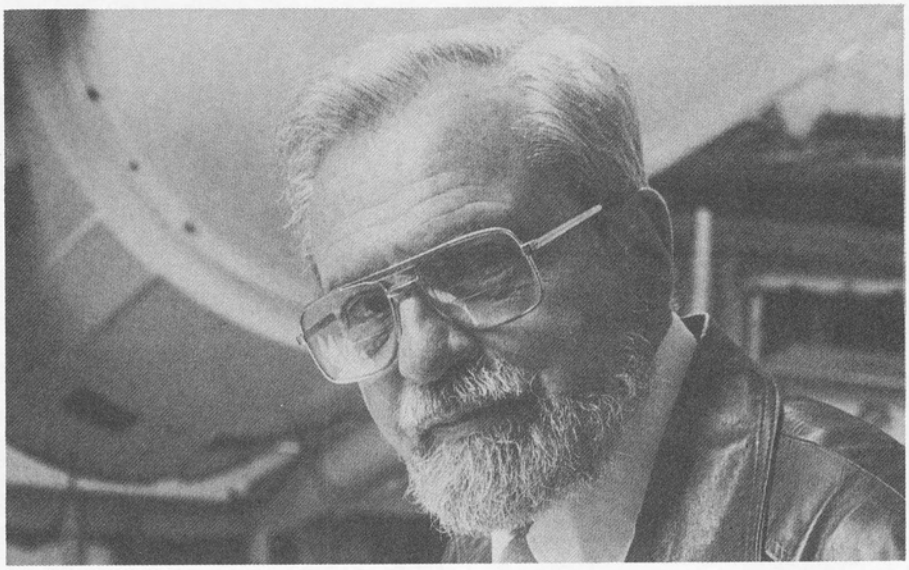

J. Allen Hynek

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On the cover: Maj. Jesse A. Marcel with the remains of a weather balloon claimed falsely to be debris from the object that crashed near Corona, New Mexico, in July 1947.

Photo courtesy of *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries

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EDITORIAL

The last decade?

Jerome Clark

Among some close observers of the UFO scene there is a growing sense that the "UFO controversy" as we have known it since 1947 may not survive the coming decade. At the least the 1990s may see a radical reshaping of priorities, from the traditional debate about the existence of UFOs to an effort to learn (1) what the U.S. government knows about them and (2) what UFO reports, including (most prominently) CE3s, tell us about the nature of nonhuman intelligence. This will depend to some considerable extent on whether certain trends and developments that came into prominence in the 1980s continue into the next several years.

In the context of UFO history—a subject in which I have been immersed for a multivolume book project—the 1980s could well be seen as a period of transition. For all the confusion and controversy (some of it inevitable, some of it generated to serve ends both scrutable [cash from the gullible] and inscrutable [disinformation]), certain themes and trends rose to prominence, with potentially profound implications for the near future. In an earlier editorial (November/December 1989) I remarked on the emergence in the past decade of the abduction phenomenon and also of the crashed-disc issue (via documentation of the Roswell incident, the first and so far only credible retrieval case), but one other significant development should be noted.

Until the 1980s it had been an article of faith among ufologists that UFO phenomena behave in certain ways and not in others. In other words, UFO reports manifest in patterns, something we would not expect to find if we were dealing with random fantasies and misobservations. In fact, the data provided ample justification for this conclusion. Experience had taught us, for example, that "UFOs" observed by great numbers of people over an area of many miles were really IFOs; true UFO appearances seemed strictly confined in time and space, and moreover, the most extraordinary close encounters were likely to occur late at night or early in the morning in a remote location. If one accepted the premise (certainly the only interpretation possible if one took witness testimony literally) that an alien intelligence, apparently humanoid in form, piloted the craft that figured in many of the reports, one could only infer that the phenomenon was conducting its business covertly.

That was why some of us were certain, when the Westchester boomerang reports began in 1983, that these could not possibly be UFO sightings. UFOs did not fly or hover, during prime evening viewing hours yet, over densely-populated Northeastern counties, where they could be seen by thousands and filmed, videotaped and photographed by anyone who happened to have camera in hand. Yet, as even we skeptics learned, that is precisely what happened (does anyone still believe the story begins and ends with the Stormville pilots?). I realize that the Gulf Breeze affair remains controversial, but I think that most would agree that a compelling skeptical case has yet to be made, while the positive evidence has withstood sustained, and even vituperative, assault. In my opinion (though perhaps some of my CUFOS colleagues would disagree), Gulf Breeze so far looks like a legitimate and significant UFO case. Again, however, much of my and others' initial skepticism stemmed from a conviction that UFOs don't behave as Ed and Frances Walters and other Gulf Breeze witnesses said they did. Only contactee hoaxers had repeated close-up sightings and took pictures, it was argued at first, though since then we have learned that the Walterses do not fit the pattern of contactee hoaxers, the dynamics of the episode are radically different, and the photos—unlike those associated with George Adamski and other flimflammers to whom Ed Walters was early and unfairly compared—give every appearance of authenticity, despite many efforts to prove them otherwise.

If the Gulf Breeze episode, in which by now a considerable share of the town's population are participants, is the genuine article, it is part of an emerging new pattern of UFO behavior, what might be described as the mass display. As in the Westchester sightings, here there is no question of "covert" behavior. Here we see—in the most literal sense—a phenomenon brazenly displaying its wares, changing a whole lot of people's minds in a big hurry, leaving dramatic records of its presence and for observers (and all who are heeding their testimony) making the UFO question suddenly real and urgent.

How much longer does a phenomenon that acts like this remain a secret, especially if such behavior continues or even accelerates in the months and years ahead? How

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The crashed-saucer forgeries

by Joe Nickell and John F. Fischer

■■ **Joe Nickell, former private investigator for a world-famous detective agency, teaches business and technical writing at the University of Kentucky. His investigative work has been featured in such magazines as *Scientific American*, *Omni*, and *Discover*, and he is the author of several books, including *Pen, Ink, and Evidence* (forthcoming from University Press of Kentucky).**

■■ **John F. Fischer is a forensic analyst in a Florida crime laboratory. He is also president of a corporation specializing in forensic research, especially that relating to laser technology. His articles have appeared in such publications as *Identification News*, *Fire and Arson Investigator*, and *Law Enforcement Technology*.**

> *I am glad of all details, . . . whether they seem to you to be relevant or not.*
>
> —Sherlock Holmes

Whether it was an extraterrestrial craft or an ordinary balloon-carried weather device, it appears to have been swept in by the wave of UFO reports that began on June 24, 1947, with pilot Kenneth Arnold's fortuitous sighting. And now, alleged government documents purport to reveal the "Ultimate Secret": how a crashed saucer and its little humanoid occupants were recovered and hidden away at a secret government installation—all part of something called Operation Majestic-12 (MJ-12), after the top-secret panel of a dozen scientists, military officers, and intelligence officials who allegedly comprised it.

Whatever the object was, it crashed, about the beginning of July, on a ranch near Corona, New Mexico. Although a young public information officer at nearby Roswell Army Air Base issued a press release stating that a "flying disc" had finally been retrieved, he was soon reprimanded and the object subsequently identified as a "Rawin target." (That was a radar target formed of foiled paper fastened to a balsa frame and carried aloft by balloons.) Nevertheless, rumor would soon claim that some half dozen "humanoid creatures" had been recovered, one possibly alive (Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore's *The Roswell Incident* [1980], p. 2), and that they were hidden away at a government facility: possibly (nonexistent) "Hangar 18" at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, or even CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia.

The years brought other "crash/retrieval" stories—ranging from outright hoaxes (like that attending Frank Scully's 1950 book *Behind the Flying Saucers*) to the dubious accounts of anonymous informants (like the proliferating tales collected by Leonard Stringfield). There was even a brief revival of the 1897 Aurora, Texas, crashed "airship" story (another hoax, albeit one that has been compounded over the years).

Then, in 1987, came documentary evidence which proved—*if* the documents were genuine—that the "Roswell incident" was not just an absurd mistake but instead ufology's most crucial case. The purportedly top secret documents did appear under very strange circumstances. They were released by a trio of UFO researchers: William L. Moore and two associates, Stanton T. Friedman and Jaime Shandera. Because of their crucial involvement in this important case, it will be useful to take a brief look at each.

William Leonard Moore, Jr., a self-described political independent who lives in Los Angeles, was born October 31, 1943, in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, son of a steelworker and an archivist/historian. He received an A.B. degree in 1965 and later (1968–72) attended Duquesne University without, however, receiving a further degree. He taught French and Russian in Pennsylvania public schools and English and French in high schools (1966–79) before becoming, according to *Contemporary Authors* (1980), a "full-time writer and lecturer." Moore tried his hand at creative writing with a couple of one-act dramas, and wrote two sensationalistic books which relied heavily on shadowy sources to "expose" alleged government cover-ups: *The Philadelphia Experiment* (1979) and (with Charles Berlitz) *The Roswell Incident* (1980).

The former was panned by the *Washington Post* (March 6, 1979), and investigative writer Paul Begg labeled the "experiment" a hoax, hinting that one source—a photocopied newspaper clipping "received by Berlitz and Moore from an anonymous source"—may have been forged. Of *The Roswell Incident*, Moore later wrote (*IUR*, July/August 1986):

> Stan Friedman and I did the bulk of the research for the book. Berlitz was largely responsible for creating the text and format . . . . If, however, there is any blame to be taken for the disgraceful hodgepodge of fact and fiction to be found in *The Roswell Incident*, then I am willing to accept it.

Since 1984 Moore has operated (with himself as president) something called the Fair-Witness Project, the avowed purpose of which is to investigate allegedly paranormal cases of "high-strange singularity." He has also operated, as a business, "William L. Moore Publications & Research" (his letterhead featuring a caricature of Moore as a paste-up artist). In 1989, in a speech at the MUFON symposium, Moore acknowledged that he was suspected of having forged the MJ-12 documents. Mentioning that a 1983 divorce had left him "with virtually nothing" and that he had experienced bankruptcy thereafter, he defended himself by saying: "Rest assured, if I was trying to perpetrate a hoax, I would have played it for all the cash I could get a long time ago and then taken the money and run . . . ."

Moore also shocked and angered many in the UFO community by alleging he had formerly acted as an unpaid government agent, providing information on several individuals as well as helping to disseminate disinformation (ostensibly as a sort of self-appointed counter-counterintelligence operation). As to his reportedly once having flashed "an official identification card" linking him with a government intelligence agency, Moore claimed, however: "The I.D. card thing stems from nothing more than a practical joke on my part that has simply gotten out of hand."

Stanton T. Friedman, now living in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, was born July 29, 1934, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and received his B.S. degree in physics in 1955 and his M.S. in 1956 from the University of Chicago. Until 1970 he worked as a nuclear physicist on classified programs for such firms as General Motors and Westinghouse. From 1970–1982 Friedman became a full-time speaker on various "controversial, scientific issues," and he served as research consultant for *The Roswell Incident*—although his name is accorded only an alphabetical position in the end-of-book acknowledgments. (But if Moore was seemingly depriving Friedman of deserved credit, the tables would soon be turned: a writing titled *UFO's: Earth's Cosmic Watergate*, which Moore listed as a work-in-progress with anticipated completion in 1981, ended up as the verbatim title of a publication issued by Friedman that same year.)

Since 1982 Friedman has worked as a consultant to industry on such matters as irradiated food and radon, while continuing as an active ufologist. According to a promotional release, he offers a "dynamic ILLUSTRATED, always UPDATED lecture 'Flying Saucers *ARE* Real'" which covers such topics as "saucer landings" and "abductions of earthlings by aliens." In 1989, Moore described Friedman as "the scientist of the group," and defended him on a charge of "gullibility" leveled by the editor of a UFO newsletter. James W. Moseley had written in his popular *Saucer Smear* (May 25, 1989):

> Friedman has recently obtained a $16,000 grant from Bruce Maccabee's Fund for UFO Research, to continue his library research on the MJ-12 matter. We would far prefer that this grant had gone to an *unbiased* observer, rather than to someone so highly committed to finding an answer that upholds the authenticity of the documents. Quite frankly, were Friedman to somehow find a "smoking gun" proving the documents are fake, we wonder if he could be trusted to reveal this information to the public & thus reveal his own gullibility of recent years!

Despite Moore's defense of him, Friedman reportedly became extremely angered at the implications in Moore's symposium speech, with as-yet-uncertain results as to the pair's relationship.

Jaime H. Shandera, described in a press release circulated by Friedman as a Los Angeles "producer, director & researcher for 20 years," joined Moore in 1982, after having worked with him and Friedman on a UFO movie in 1980. The Friedman release says he has an "extensive background in news and documentaries." But, according to Moseley, like Moore "He too has largely given up his career. . . . His financial situation is better than Moore's, however, as his wife has a very good job in the TV industry."

Although Shandera was a virtual unknown in so far as ufology is concerned, and had never published any books or papers on the subject, it was to him that the ill-fated MJ-12 papers were sent—anonymously. Shandera supposedly received them on December 11, 1984, in the form of a roll of unprocessed 35mm film. (It was reportedly inside a white envelope, inside a brown-paper wrapper, inside another such wrapper sealed with "official-looking brown tape on all seams." The "carefully typed" address label bore no return address.) Shandera promptly contacted Moore and the film was developed, according to Moore's account in a MUFON banquet speech in 1987.

On the film were two documents. The first was a seven-page "BRIEFING DOCUMENT: OPERATION MAJESTIC 12/ PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER," dated November 18, 1952. The second was a "MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE," dated September 24, 1947, and bearing the signature of President Truman. Both were designated "TOP SECRET/EYES ONLY." If genuine, they would prove that the United States recovered a crashed saucer near Roswell in 1947, together with "four small human-like beings," and that the government also retrieved another alien vehicle which crashed near the Texas-Mexico border on December 6, 1950; the memo would prove that Truman had authorized "Operation Majestic Twelve" to handle such matters.

Then another MJ-12 document surfaced, reportedly discovered at the National Archives by Moore and Shandera in the summer of 1985. (But the copy they

circulated *two years later* was marked with the release date, "1/12/87.") If authentic, this document—ostensibly a carbon *copy* of a memo from Robert Cutler (Special Assistant to President Eisenhower) to USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Nathan Twining, dated July 14, 1954—would verify the existence of an MJ-12 group operating at that time.

These were the primary (but not the only) MJ-12 documents under contention when we became involved in the case. Our participation came with the encouragement of *IUR* editor Jerome Clark. Many other individuals and groups were involved in scrutinizing the documents—generally with a view toward debunking or defending them—but ours was to be an independent investigation.

Questioned documents

We began our investigation by requesting from William Moore and Jaime Shandera photographic prints from the negatives they developed, showing the MJ-12 documents, together with a photocopy of the front and back of the wrapper in which the film was received. Neither man troubled to reply. Stanton Friedman, however, did send us multiple-generation photocopies, stating: "I hereby certify that the enclosed Xerox copies of the Ike briefing document were made by me from prints received . . . in early August and that to the best of my knowledge they are not retouched."

But Friedman was unwilling to circumvent Shandera or Moore, who, in any event, possessed the negatives; neither was Friedman willing to supply a copy of the package's postmark which, he said, "we do not wish to reveal at this time." Jerome Clark intervened at this stage to write Friedman. Clark stated that he had, for many years, known one of us (J.N.) "whose intellectual integrity I have never had reason to question," and who "has my and CUFOS' full confidence." Clark added: "All of us at CUFOS were pleased when he offered his services and I would hate to see this opportunity missed, as will happen, of course, if he has nothing to work with." Nevertheless, we never received the photographs, leaving us to wonder just what Moore, et al, feared could occur from our having the photos, as opposed to multiple-generation photocopies, to examine.

We had wanted the photographs for several reasons, one of which was to establish the closest possible link with the originals. Even so, without the actual papers there would be no provenance (i.e., history or chain of ownership) for them, and that would represent a serious obstacle to authentication. Although, as one expert, Dr. Roy L. Davids, states, provenance is a less crucial issue than "a thorough examination of the manuscript itself," in the case of the photographed MJ-12 documents even that was problematical.

The problem is highlighted by the fact that many notorious forgeries have involved some contrivance to mitigate the absence of the alleged originals. For example, in the case of the spurious Beale-treasure papers, the antique manuscripts had supposedly been destroyed in a fire, and only printed copies remained. (See Joe Nickell's "Discovered: The Secret of Beale's Treasure," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, July 1982.) Again, with the bogus "Lincoln conspiracy" documents of the 1970s, the "originals" could not be examined because they were in the custody of certain "Stanton descendants" who wished to remain anonymous, so only "transcripts" were available.

In the case of the filmed MJ-12 papers (the Cutler-Twining memo has its own problems), the fact that the documents were available only on film effectively prevented examination of the paper, ink, and so on. It was obvious that the text and markings could easily have been supplied by old typewriters in conjunction with a cut-and-paste technique using photocopied elements from genuine documents. Indeed, this approach is one readily available to the novice forger. According to an article in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 21 (1976):

> It has become apparent that the perpetrators of various crimes, aware of the possibility of their identification through the examinations of handwriting, typewriting, ink, or paper, have resorted to the use of photocopies in an attempt to eliminate or obscure the identifiable features of the original documents.

We had also wanted the photographs to ensure that the copies we had were unaltered from the originals. (When Moore first released the documents, they had been doctored; i.e., portions had been marked out as if they had been censored—but the censorship had been done by Moore. And there are other ways the documents could have been altered; for example, the numerical portion of the date on the Truman memo has anomalous features consistent with alteration at some stage in the document's existence.) We had also asked for contact prints of the negatives so that (among other reasons) we could account for all frames and help ensure that we had the full evidence as it had been received.

Because the Moore-Shandera-Friedman team had chosen to withhold crucial evidence from us, we had to make a critical decision: whether to abort our investigation, or continue under additionally restrictive circumstances. We chose the latter. But we did advise Friedman that it would be impossible for us to authenticate the documents and that we would instead effectively be limited "to pursuing the alternate hypothesis of forgery." Friedman had trouble comprehending this, and he seemed committed to defending the documents—trumpeting any credible features and devising rationalizations for any problematical ones. To an extent this is appropriate; in questioned-document cases, however, it is not what is correct that matters nearly so much as what is wrong, since even a novice forger can be expected to get some things right. For instance, the fact that a putative George Washington letter was written on acceptably old paper would matter less than the fact that the text was written in

Palmer-style penmanship; the latter would brand the document a fake. Less glaring anomalies might not be individually telling, but a number of them could represent a pattern highly indicative of forgery.

Once fully underway our investigation included making trips to both the Truman Library (in Independence, Missouri) and the National Archives, consulting old government style manuals, enlisting the aid of a linguistics expert, corresponding with ufologists, and much more—work that extended over a period of two years.

Even at a first reading, we saw what appeared to be a serious problem with the Truman memo. It was a glaring format error, yet one that seemed to have all but gone unrecognized. A hint of the problem comes from Friedman's berating of beleaguered Philip J. Klass, arch UFO skeptic, for repeatedly calling the document a "letter." Friedman stated (*IUR*, September/October 1987):

> Klass seems to be guilty here of an intentional misrepresentation of facts by calling the memo a letter. He is able to state that authentic letters begin "My Dear Secretary" and have the full name and address of the intended recipient in the lower left hand corner of the page. And being psychic as he seems to be, he states, "But in the September 24, 1947, letter, the counterfeiter forgot to type Forrestal's name, title and address in the lower left portion of the page and used Dear Secretary Forrestal instead of Truman's typical 'My Dear Secretary.'" This is absurd. Memos—and this was a memo, not a letter—don't have recipients' addresses on them.

Unfortunately for Friedman, neither do memos open with "Dear . . . ." That element—known as a *greeting* or *salutation*—is reserved for letters. Yet Klass acquiesced to Friedman's heated criticism and subsequently referred to the document as a "memorandum," while correctly observing that its format differed markedly from that of authentic Truman memoranda of the same period. At the very least—based on our search through countless Truman letters and memoranda as well as from Friedman's research—we can say that the odds are thousands to one against such an incompetent hybrid memo/letter's having emanated from Truman's office.

There were other problems with the Truman "memo" (which ostensibly served as a presidential executive order authorizing Operation MJ-12). Some of these we would discover; some, others would point out. For example, soon after the MJ-12 documents surfaced, Barry Greenwood (editor of *Just Cause*) wrote:

> Page 2 of the Briefing Paper refers to the formation of MJ-12 "by special classified executive order of President Truman on 24 September, 1947 . . ." We have checked the Truman Library's listing of executive orders and found that no orders were issued on 9/24. Executive order numbers 9891-9896 were issued respectively on 9/15, two on 9/20, 9/23, 9/30 and 10/2/47, none even closely resembling the MJ-12 subject. There is no gap in the number sequence for these dates so none are missing. Further, the number quoted in Attachment "A" of the Briefing Paper, #092447 . . . is not an executive order number but the date of President Truman's memo, 9/24/47. Executive orders are not numbered by date but are numbered sequentially, and at the time the numbers were only four digits.

Friedman's rationalization is that the document was only designated an executive order five years later (when it supposedly became an attachment to the Eisenhower briefing document), and that—in any case—(as he put it in an April 6, 1989, letter to Nickell) we "don't have any definition of what was meant by 'special classified executive order'"; he would argue that one has no basis for saying just how it might be numbered.

But the document was undeniably being cited as an executive order (EO) by someone (Rear Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, if the briefing document is genuine) who should have known full well what an EO is. Besides, the document seems to function as an EO when it states that "you are hereby authorized to proceed with all due speed and caution upon your undertaking"; yet a genuine EO would necessarily explain what the undertaking *was*, and not just refer to it vaguely as "this matter." Also a genuine EO would necessarily cite the authority under which the President was acting (e.g., a specific citation, such as "By virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the provisions of . . .[etc.]," or even simply, "By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States . . .") In short, the document's content, like its format, seems incompatible with authenticity.

There are many other problems with this document, but we will mention only one other that we felt was quite significant—one concerning the signature. While it lacked many of the obvious indicators of forgery (insofar as we could determine from our photocopy)—e.g., tremor, retouching, and so on—the document did exhibit a feature that forensic document examiners note can indicate spuriousness, namely what criminologist Paul L. Kirk calls "abnormal positioning of a signature with respect to the body of the writing." As we learned by studying hundreds of genuine documents, President Truman habitually signed his name immediately under the body text, whereas the questioned Truman-Forrestal memo had the signature placed well below the text. (See Figure 1.) In combination, the apparent genuineness of the autograph and the unusual placement suggested to us that the document was a composite or paste-up type forgery made by pasting a genuine signature (such as one clipped from a photocopy) below a typed text, then recopying the whole (possibly a second time after using "white out" to eliminate tell-tale margins of the cutout). That this is precisely how the memo was faked was eventually proven, but before considering that evidence let us take a brief look at the other two MJ-12 documents.

The alleged Eisenhower briefing paper likewise raised many questions. One—the pseudomilitary date format—has been the subject of much debate. Whereas the date on the cover of the document should have been written "18 November 1952," it actually contained an

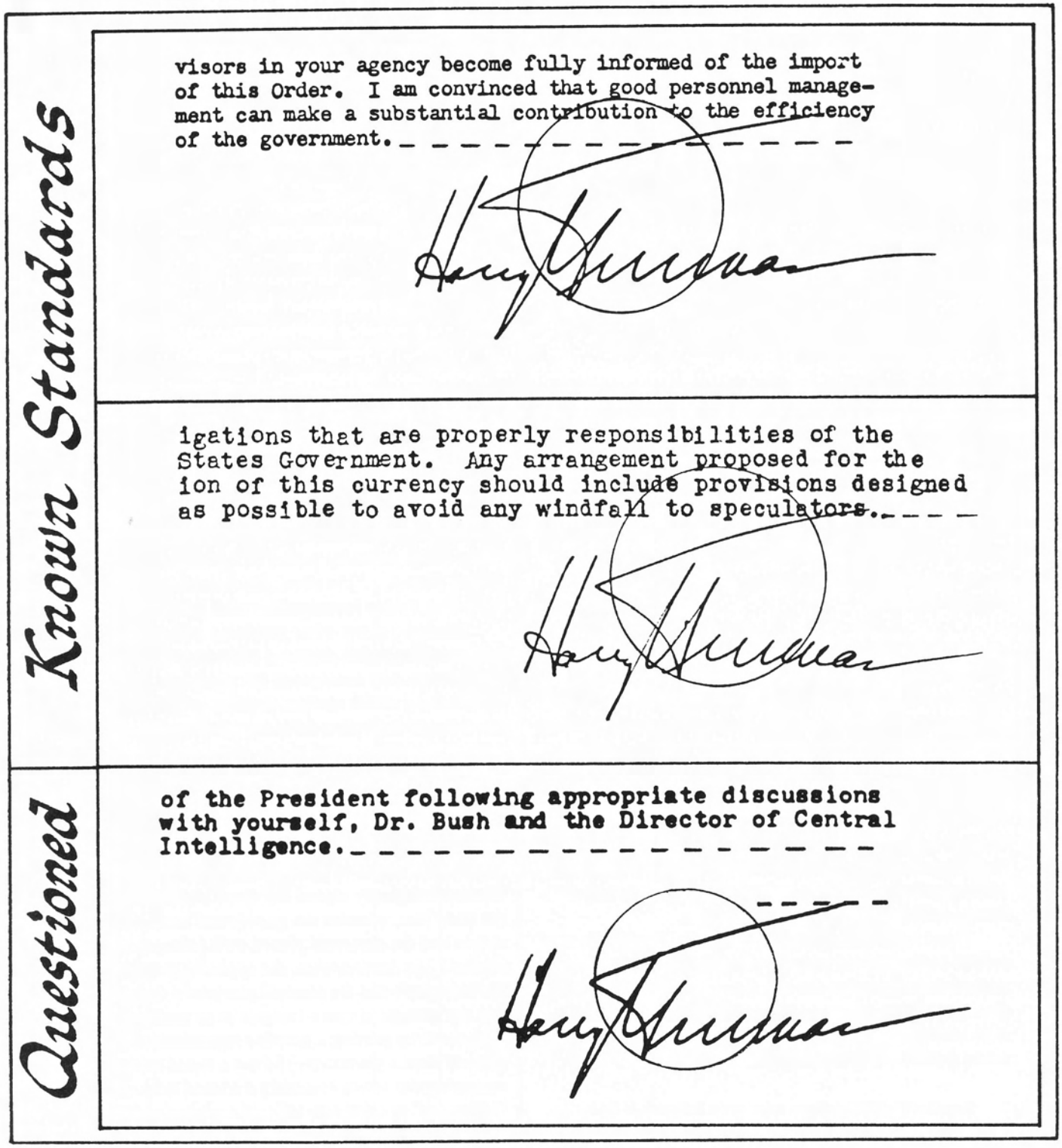
Known Standards
visors in your agency become fully informed of the import of this Order. I am convinced that good personnel management can make a substantial contribution to the efficiency of the government.
igations that are properly responsibilities of the States Government. Any arrangement proposed for the ion of this currency should include provisions designed as possible to avoid any windfall to speculators.
Questioned
of the President following appropriate discussions with yourself, Dr. Bush and the Director of Central Intelligence.

Figure 1. President Truman invariably placed his signature close to the text as shown in the top two examples. With the "T" as a radius, a scribed circle cuts well into the typewriting. But the questioned "MJ-12" example, bottom, fails this test.

anomalous comma: "18 November, 1952." While Friedman has shown that such a feature, although rare, is not unknown in genuine documents of the period, he has fared less well with another date feature: the use of a zero with single-digit dates—e.g., "On 07 July, 1947 . . . ." Friedman has not been able to show the use of the zero in dates of this type. (His citing of examples in which the representation of the date is digital—and the use of the zero therefore positional—is essentially irrelevant.) We find that the two anomalous features—the comma and the zero—*when taken together* are quite distinctive. Neither we nor Friedman has been able to demonstrate the combination in a genuine U.S. government document of the period, let alone in any document produced by Hillenkoetter. (As we shall see, however, a suspect in the case has used just this distinctive date format.)

Since (unlike the brief Truman-Forrestal and Cutler-Twining memos) the Eisenhower briefing document ran to a few pages, there was a possibility of conducting a linguistics study of the text to see whether it was compatible with genuine writings of its alleged author, Hillenkoetter. Indeed, such a study had previously been commissioned by several UFO organizations, with the result that the MJ-12 document had supposedly been "validated." Yet the analysis seemed flawed and quickly became the subject of controversy. We therefore chose to commission a new study, and MUFON's Robert Bletchman graciously supplied a set of 22 Hillenkoetter exemplars that had been used as standards in the original study.

The new analysis was performed by Jean Pival, a distinguished linguistics expert who has assisted us in previous cases. Prof. Pival pointed out that while she could not say conclusively whether or not the admiral wrote the briefing document, there were certainly "some puzzling deviations from the style of the other manuscripts" (i.e., the exemplars), including certain "syntactical structures found sparingly or not at all in the other materials I examined." She added:

> Perhaps more significant is the inclusion of a contradictory mixing of the passive voice (elsewhere employed in relating second-hand information) and the uncharacteristic judgmental statements (found in the twenty-two Hillenkoetter memos and letters only in first-hand reporting). Phrases such as "highly credible military and civilian sources"; "a second object, probably of similar origin"; "the motives and ultimate intentions of these visitors remain completely unknown" probably would have been qualified in the same ways as these more characteristic ones which appear in the same document: "what appear to be a form of writing"; "it is assumed that the propulsion unit was completely destroyed"; and "It was the tentative conclusion of this group . . . ."

Pival concluded that if Hillenkoetter did write the questioned text, "the uncharacteristic judgments could have been added by a second party." On the other hand, she said of the document, "Certainly, it could have been written by someone sophisticated enough to emulate his style."

Turning, finally, to the Cutler-Twining memorandum allegedly discovered in the National Archives, it too raised many controversial points. Although this copy is on thin onionskin paper that could date from the appropriate time period, it apparently fails to match that actually used by Cutler at the time he served on the National Security Council. Worse, the National Archives issued a statement questioning the document's authenticity on numerous grounds, notably that it was located in a record group in which documents are filed by "a Top Secret register number," but that the questioned memo lacked such a number. Moreover, although the (unsigned) copy bears the typed name of Robert Cutler, Cutler was actually *away from Washington* on the date in question. (Friedman suggests [*IUR*, May/June 1988] that one of Cutler's two assistants—James Lay and Patrick Coyne—prepared the memo; but the Eisenhower Library counters convincingly: "one would assume that if the memorandum to Twining were genuine, Lay or Coyne would have signed it"—i.e., that it would have borne one of their typed names just as another memo did issued on the same day.) Even Friedman—who stubbornly defends the document against charges of fakery—concedes it may well have been "planted" at the archives (although he thinks it more likely to have been done by an "insider" than by an outside hoaxer).

In the aggregate, the many anomalous and suspicious elements detected in the MJ-12 papers clearly demonstrate the documents are forgeries, but it is always desirable to find conclusive proof. The typewriting might offer such proof, but we felt our multiple-generation photocopies were unsuitable for the expert examination we had planned. (More recently, however, has come an indirect report that the Truman EO was produced on a typewriter dating from after 1947. See Klass' "New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax," *Skeptical Inquirer*, Winter 1990.)

We saw the Truman signature as a potentially vulnerable link in the forger's chain, since we thought it was a genuine autograph affixed to a bogus document. Now, one does not sign his name precisely the same way twice—a fact well established in the forensic literature (Albert S. Osborn, *Questioned Documents* [1978], pp. 339-62)—and so part of our investigative strategy involved our attempting to find a genuine document with a signature that matched the one in the questioned Truman-Forrestal memo. One of us (J.N.), who did the searching at the Truman Library and the National Archives, was armed with a small card on which was reproduced the target (questioned) signature. This signature was compared with countless signatures, although a trained eye required only a moment or two to eliminate each from consideration. Unfortunately, although our strategy could have yielded conclusive results, we knew that it was a long-shot approach, that we were looking for a particular straw in a very large haystack.

Eventually, after we had all but abandoned our

search one of us (J.N.) met Klass at a conference. We had initially avoided having any contact with him, since we wished to work along independent lines, but he had learned of our investigation and—since we had also shared some information with Friedman—we did briefly discuss the case to the extent of describing our unsuccessful tack. Eventually this would prove fortunate.

In time, Klass found the original—penned on an authentic Truman letter of October 1, 1947, written to Dr. Vannevar Bush—which he sent to us on a confidential basis. (See Figure 2.) To his credit, he did not ask our opinion of the match; he knew (as indeed should anyone with a modicum of visuospatial skills) that he had actually discovered the signature which had been purloined by the MJ-12 forger. All he wanted from us were authoritative forensic references about the uniqueness of individual signatures, which we readily supplied.

As it happens, Klass' discovery had been pre-empted by Friedman, with one difference: Friedman thought the correspondence of one signature to the other was proof of authenticity rather than spuriousness! In his May/June 1988 *IUR* article Friedman said of the questioned Truman EO: "The signature matches that on an October 1947 letter from Truman to [Vannevar] Bush." Of course, at the time, neither we nor Klass had any idea Friedman meant an identical match (even as to a distinctive, anomalous pen stroke at the top of the right-hand vertical stroke of the "H" of "Harry").

After Klass made his discovery, acting on our advice he contacted a forensic document examiner to obtain expert confirmation of his own findings. That expert was aware of another examiner's analysis which reportedly showed the Truman EO had been typed on a post-1947 typewriter. Klass immediately telephoned that examiner and the two compared notes, with the result that Klass sent the examiner the genuine Truman signature for comparison with the questioned one. The examiner had no difficulty (despite the fact that the latter had become slightly stretched by multiple photocopying) in determining that the questioned signature was "a classic signature transplant" (i.e., a genuine signature employed in a photocopy forgery).

MJ-12 proponents, however, were having none of this. The document examiner, Klass reports—having earlier received MJ-12 material from Friedman—felt obliged to advise him of the new, negative findings and tell him "that he should just wash his hands of this." According to Klass, however, "Friedman spoke at a MUFON regional conference near St. Louis and repeated his earlier endorsement of the authenticity of the MJ-12 papers."

Neither was Moore accepting defeat. Citing the slightly larger features of the MJ-12 Truman signature in comparison with the genuine Truman one, Moore grandly discounted Klass' findings. And, in a statement interestingly revealing of his propensity (given his publishing business) to think in terms of paste-up techniques, Moore remarked (in a September 23, 1989, letter to Klass): "Just as an aside, had I set out to counterfeit a signature using a Xerox, I would have cut a Harry from one signature and a Truman from another, or even tried piecing bits of several signatures together."

Be that as it may, Klass is indeed correct in stating that he has uncovered the "smoking gun" in the MJ-12 forgery case. He is backed by an entire conference-roomful of forensic document examiners, should our own endorsement be thought insufficient. Those who attempt to argue otherwise simply reveal their ineptitude—or worse.

The forger

Barring either the forger's confession or a full-scale investigation by the FBI or other judicial authority prepared to obtain search warrants, conclusive identification of the MJ-12 author seems remote at this time. But, by sifting through the available evidence and considering such elements as motive, opportunity, *modus operandi*, and so forth, including linguistic and psychological factors, we have attempted to put together a composite profile of the suspect.

First of all we are convinced the forgeries are not the work of any clandestine government agency—American or otherwise. The documents simply lack the sophistication necessary to warrant such an attribution. Instead they point unfailingly to an individual hoaxer—not only in the typical admixture of cleverness and bungling that have characterized the solitary deceiver throughout history; nor merely because it is the simplest explanation involving the fewest assumptions; but for many additional reasons.

For example, there are tell-tale signs of a UFO partisan at work. The most obvious example is found in the briefing document which lists the late Donald Menzel—the most militant UFO debunker of his day—among the 12 names comprising the"Majestic-12 Group." Here the hoaxer overreached, as most ufologists quickly realized (Friedman notwithstanding; see his "The Secret Life of Donald H. Menzel," *IUR*, January/February 1988). Jerome Clark suggested it was a "bizarre blunder," Klass "an attempt at revenge" against Menzel. Indeed, this posthumous conversion of Menzel from arch skeptic to guardian of the Ultimate Secret is reminiscent of the treatment certain spiritualists have accorded Harry Houdini, the late, great crusader against spiritualist beliefs. More than one trance medium has been unable to resist pretending to conjure up the doubting magician's spirit and having him recant.

Even more specifically, there are unmistakable indicators that the hoax is the work of a crashed-saucer zealot. Not only do the briefing paper's details tally with those of the "Roswell incident" as mythologized in Moore's book, but the MJ-12 papers were clearly fabricated by someone willing to expend a considerable amount of effort in doing so. Forging the documents

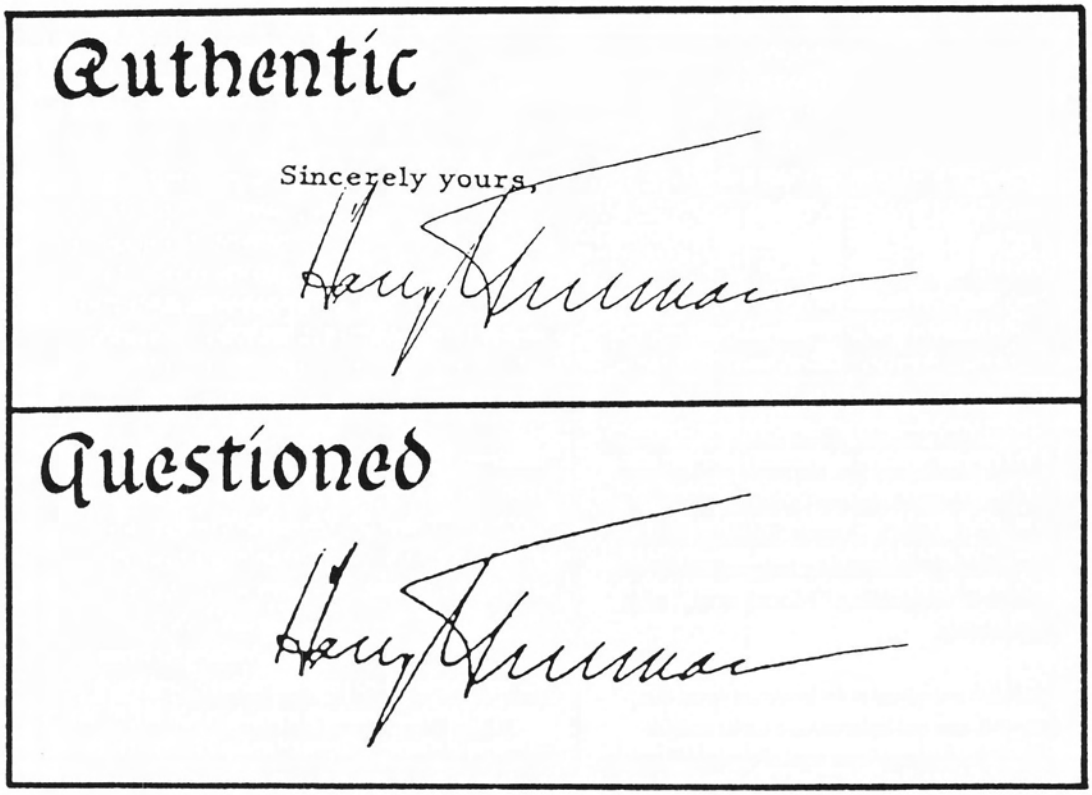

Figure 2. Truman signature from authentic letter matches one on an "MJ-12" memo (although multiple copying has rendered the latter darker and slightly stretched). Since no two individual signatures are identical, this demonstrates the questioned document is spurious.

would have necessitated research (or access to another's research) in such repositories as the Truman Library, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress (in the Manuscript Division of which the "smoking gun" Truman signature was discovered). Obviously, the forger was someone whose research was on a par with that of Moore, Shandera, and Friedman. Friedman and Moore had, in fact, previously gone through the very files that would soon be revealed as having provided models for the MJ-12 forgeries. (At the same time, the level of research would seem to eliminate one person who has previously been named as a suspect: a former Air Force security agent, reportedly "decertified" for misconduct, named Richard C. Doty. Sources have identified Doty as Moore's cloak-and-dagger "source," the raconteur of incredible tales whom Moore code-named "Falcon." On the TV program *UFO-Coverup?—Live*, telecast October 14, 1988, a disguised "Falcon" stated that Operation MJ-12 was created "in the early fifties"—a glaring "error" that could scarcely be expected from the archival-minded MJ-12 forger.)

The forger's research presupposes an intelligent individual, as does his chosen avocation since, according to an authoritative source, "Forgers approach the personality profiles of confidence men, and the latter have been shown to have above average intelligence levels," (E. Patrick McGuire, author of *The Forgers* [1969]). Based on the profiles of many forgers, the MJ-12 forger could also be expected to be male, white, and (at the time the documents were created) between the ages of about 27 and 47. He probably comes from a middle-class, possibly "maternally dominated" home (his father perhaps having been employed in some "semi-skilled occupation" and his mother frustrated over her husband's resultingly limited career abilities). Be that as it may, the culprit most likely exhibits an extroversive personality and is highly verbal and socially manipulative. He probably possesses "good organizational capacities." He may also be like others of his ilk who, in McGuire's words, "rebel against all authority figures and often are cynical about general society, institutions, and mores." And he can be expected to have "an exceptional amount of that type of courage which is best described as 'nerve,'" Charles E. O'Hara writes in *Fundamentals of Criminial Investigation* (1973).

As a type of psychopath, the typical forger—and thus almost certainly our suspect—can be expected to show

> a remarkable disregard for truth . . . . During the most solemn perjuries he has no difficulty at all in looking anyone tranquilly in the eyes. Although he will lie about any matter, under any circumstances, and often for no

> good reason, he may, on the contrary, sometimes own up to his errors (usually when detection is certain) . . . . After being caught in shameful and gross falsehoods, after repeatedly violating his most earnest pledges, he finds it easy, when another occasion arises, to speak of his *word of honor*, his *honor as a gentleman*, and he shows surprise and vexation when commitments on such a basis do not immediately settle the issue.

It is well to consider, as manuscript expert Mary Benjamin remarks, that forgers operate from a variety of motives, including "financial gain," "personal ambition," and "that curious form of arrested maturity which leads adults to perpetrate hoaxes" (*Autographs* [1986]). It may be that in the MJ-12 forger's case, all of these are aspects of a larger motivation to silence the skeptics and rejuvenate belief among the crashed-saucer faithful. Writing in *Saucer Smear* (August 4, 1987), Dennis Stillings (of the Archaeus Project) offers an interesting suggestion in this regard (in the context of suggesting "Moore et al," may have concocted the hoax):

> These people have been committed to the hardware theory [i.e., the belief that UFOs are real, nuts-and-bolts extraterrestrial craft] so fanatically and for so long that they may have tired of the lack of support for what they see as obvious truth, so to save us from impending doom they have concocted a well-meaning hoax to put us on our guard. . . . This sort of thing has happened before.

Because of his personality and motive, a forger who is a repeat offender (as is indicated in the MJ-12 case) will likely exhibit a characteristic *modus operandi* (or "M.O."), a method of operation that may remain relatively unchanged. That is, the typical offender is prone, one authority says, to "going about his task in the old familiar way, thereby leaving the inevitable indications of his identity, despite the fact that he successfully avoids leaving any other clues." Thus we may hope to discover other instances of the MJ-12 forger's handiwork should there be any. They could be expected to involve forged documents, or their verbal equivalent, in support of a hoax exposé of an alleged government cover-up. A more closely focused look at just the forgery aspect of the M.O. does reveal some additional clues as to the person we may be looking for. Earlier we mentioned verbal skills as an expected trait; the pseudo briefing paper, allegedly written by Rear Adm. Hillenkoetter and rather cleverly imitative of his governmentese, suggests that the author is a writer who can speak through a persona. He is also able to visualize situations imaginatively. Therefore we believe we may be looking for someone who has experience in writing fiction, perhaps using dialogue in stories or plays. (Of course, his may be a previously unrecognized talent; we do not suggest it is of a high order.)

His specific technology may be worthy of comment. It obviously used different typewriters, rubber stamps (or imitation thereof), scissors and/or a paste-up artist's knife, white correction fluid, paper, paper paste or cement, a mechanical page-numbering device (or means of simulating same), photocopying machine, a 35mm camera, probably a copying stand for the camera, film, envelopes, wrapping tape, and so on. Of course, some or all of these could be bought or rented for the purpose, and our point in mentioning them is not so much to suggest the forger was working in an office, but that he may have had some familiarity with the rudiments of pasting up "copy," as well as using a camera, in association with publishing, and that may have suggested the particular approach to him. (We are aware that virtually anyone could type and paste up such documents and, if necessary, have someone else do the photography.)

Finally, we think the forger left something of a fingerprint on the briefing document. That is the unusual date format (e.g., "07 July, 1947," with the anomalous zero and comma). We know that this incorrect form was produced by the forger himself, who probably had used it so often that he no longer "saw" it but employed it unconsciously. (Or for the same reason that he originally began rendering dates in that way, he may simply have never observed that it was incorrect.)

It has been suggested that this date format points to William Moore, who is known to have employed it during most of the 1980s; then again, it has been suggested that the forger may have been "trying deliberately to frame Moore." As to the latter possibility, we would suggest that anyone who might have done so would have to have had a motive commensurate with the tremendous amount of effort required, and to otherwise fit the profile we have sketched. (We do not feel that Friedman, for example, is a viable suspect.)

Laymen often suggest that no one clever enough to do *A* would be stupid enough (or careless enough) to have done *B*. Actually, anyone who will trouble to study other cases (e.g., that of the "Hitler diaries" or the Mormon "Salamander" letter) will find this is not the exception but the rule. It is fortunately so for those of us who do not wish to be victimized by the smirking purloiners of truth.

Acknowledgements

In addition to individuals cited in the text, we are also grateful to the staffs of the Truman Library (especially Benedict K. Zobrist, Director), the National Archives, and the Margaret I. King Library at the University of Kentucky for assisting in our research; to Robert A. Baker and Stuart Levine for reading the manuscript; and to Ella T. Nickell for helping in many ways. ■

MJ-12: the jury is still out

by Stanton T. Friedman

■■ Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist and UFO lecturer, investigated the MJ-12 briefing document under a grant from the Fund for UFO Research. His report on his findings will be released shortly.

IUR is to be commended for asking William L. Moore and me to respond to the Nickell-Fischer (NF) charges in the same issue in which their article appears. It is, unfortunately, uncommon to be given a chance to respond simultaneously to such a strong attack. *Skeptical Inquirer* even refused to run, ever, either of my detailed factual responses to two grossly inaccurate articles on MJ-12. (The articles, both written by Philip J. Klass, appeared in the Winter 1987–88 and Spring 1988 issues.) I eventually published them (together) for much smaller audiences; one of these articles was published in *IUR* for May/June 1988. The *MUFON UFO Journal* (January 1990) published a harsh critique without advance warning; my response could appear only two issues later.

Anyone not knowledgeable about the Roswell incident, the MJ-12 documents and government operations would, I think, be impressed with the seemingly scholarly NF. Nickell did visit the Truman Library and the National Archives. NF cite learned volumes on questioned documents, forgeries, hoaxes and criminal investigations. On closer examination, however, NF appear to be engaging in a propaganda exercise which relies on selective choice of data, recital of unsupported claims by critics, and innuendo. I shall document these points in what follows.

Apparently the basic assumptions underlying NF's arguments are these:

(1) No alien spacecraft are visiting the earth. Therefore: (2) No alien spacecraft could have crashed in New Mexico in 1947. Therefore: (3) Any "alleged" documents relating such a notion must be fraudulent. Therefore: (4) There is no need to document charges, review counterarguments, or make allowances for ambiguity because of inaccessibility of documents. As corollaries one assumes that absence of evidence means evidence for absence, that governments cannot keep secrets, that any statements made by those unwilling to examine all aspects of the documents should be accepted at face and those opposed to the ideas presented by NF should be ignored.

The cavalier treatment of what happened near Roswell is enough to raise serious questions about objectivity. NF refer to Moore and Charles Berlitz's *The Roswell Incident* (1980) but tell the whole story in one paragraph, which contains a false claim that page two of the book alleges that half a dozen "humanoid creatures" had been recovered. No such number is cited there. In addition, the remark is made that "the young public-information officer [obviously Walter Haut] was soon reprimanded." Haut has denied that he was reprimanded. The testimonies of Haut and a host of other firsthand witnesses figure nowhere in NF's account. Also absent are references to the other, later papers by Moore and me resulting from our continuing research.

It is surprising that two forensic specialists would invoke negative book reviews to help dismiss the story of what happened in New Mexico without giving any indication that the reviewers had done any independent investigation (I would bet 20 to one they had not) of the important events recounted in the book. I was certainly unhappy with the many inadequacies of *The Roswell Incident*, but the book's shortcomings should not detract from the mass of solid evidence for a UFO crash in the Corona area in July 1947.

Sadly, it is standard practice on the part of debunkers to ignore the evidence. Klass, for example, made more than 20 factual misstatements in his three-page treatment of Roswell in *UFOs: The Public Deceived* (1983). Klass has never been to Roswell or talked with any of the 92 persons Moore and I contacted prior to publication of Moore's long paper "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof" in *MUFON 1985 UFO Symposium Proceedings*. The number of informants is now well over 160 and includes those located and interviewed by CUFOS' Don Schmitt, Kevin D. Randle and Leonard H. Stringfield. Klass and Barry Greenwood have also, so far as I have been able to determine, never been to the Eisenhower Library or the Harvard Archives (where Menzel's papers are stored) or the Rockefeller Archives (Detlev Bronk's papers) or the Army Archives (some of Gordon Gray's papers) or the Princeton Archives (James Forrestal's papers). Apparently NF have never been to these either or to the Library of Congress Manuscript Division (some papers of Bush, Hoyt Vandenberg, Nathan Twining, Harry S. Truman and others). I have been to all of the above.

I do not understand where NF get the idea that *The Roswell Incident* "relied heavily on shadowy sources to exposed the alleged government cover-ups." By 1985 about 30 of the 92 witnesses were firsthand informants. The names of nearly all are part of the public record. Today the number of firsthand witnesses is even higher.

I think Jim Moseley would be delighted and shocked at being cited repeatedly as if he were a skilled and informed researcher with regard to Roswell, MJ-12 and government documents. The editor of ufology's premier gossip newsletter, *Saucer Smear*, deserves credit as the clown prince of ufology but hardly as a researcher. I have no idea why NF mention my paper "UFOs: Earth's Cosmic Watergate" as if it were stolen from Moore. Moore was there when I presented it in 1981 at a Cleveland APRO conference, and of course he knew I had written it. Why bring up the fact that the widely-circulated version of the Cutler-Twining memo was marked with a

"release date" of January 12, 1987, without also mentioning that this is the date on which a rubber stamp was put on the front of the document for Bruce Maccabee? It is not a release date; it is the date of stamping. When Moore and Jaime Shandera originally got their copy of the document from Ed Reese at the National Archives, he had stamped that date on the back, not on the front. It is not a release date; it is the date on which the copy is made at the Archives.

NF state that "ours was to be an independent investigation." NF repeatedly refer to Moseley, Klass and Greenwood but mention none of our Roswell-related papers or deal with the substance of my referenced but apparently not examined papers in *IUR* for September/October 1987 and January/February 1988. Nothing is said at all of my 20-page, single-spaced July 1989 MUFON symposium paper "Update on Operation Majestic 12." NF quote Klass as saying that I spoke at a MUFON regional conference near St. Louis and "repeated his [my] earlier endorsement of the authenticity of the MJ-12 papers." The St. Louis conference was in October 1989. Klass was not there. I did not then or earlier endorse authenticity. I have repeatedly said that I had not yet reached a conclusion about the legitimacy of the papers but that none of the arguments made against it stand up. That is still true.

NF make much of my calling the Truman-Forrestal memo a memorandum rather than a letter. That is not my choice. The document is titled "MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE." NF refer to Klass' contention that its format "differed from that of authentic Truman memoranda of the same time period" but neglect to note that three examples used by Klass—is this a representative sampling by anybody's standards?—all have quite different formats. The three memos that Klass claims have the same format would all normally be considered notes. None is signed. All have only initials H.S.T. in ink. All contain only three sentences. None was classified. Two different typewriters were used. Two are single-spaced and one is double-spaced. There are, believe it or not, three different forms of address. These are "Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense" (April 22, 1948); "Memorandum for: James Forrestal/Secretary of Defense" (January 21, 1948)—the title is under the name; and "MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Cabinet" (January 11, 1947). None has a period after the date. None deals with anything of great importance. Will the "right format" please stand up and explain why it has any relevance to the Truman-Forrestal memorandum? Or is it the rule to accept at face value any statement that fits NF's own preconceptions?

Reading NF, Greenwood and Klass, one would be led to believe each government office uses only one format for its letters and its memos and that all memos or letters or executive orders or notes with an official's signature or initials were, of course, prepared by that individual using only one secretary for everything and only one typewriter for everything.

NF repeat Greenwood's comments about executive orders. Why is no mention made of the important fact that a significant fraction of executive orders and national security directives have never been declassified or made public? (See, for example, Harold C. Relyea's "The Coming of Secret Law," *Government Information Quarterly* 5,2 [1988].) Since there are many official and unofficial EOs which have never seen the light of day, how can anyone say whether all are or are not numbered sequentially? As a side comment about authorship, I note that a copy of the famous Nathan Twining letter of September 23, 1947, stored in a box of Blue Book-related documents at the National Archives, has a handwritten remark at the bottom that five different persons contributed to it.

The notion that a genuine EO would necessarily explain what the undertaking was and not refer to it just as "this matter" is false. It is, according to old-time Washington officials, standard practice when dealing with highly-classified matters not to be specific even in highly-classified memos. I have cited two good examples in my collection of MJ-12-related papers; these are memos (dated June 25, 1953, and July 13, 1953) from Robert Cutler himself. These were in Twining's files and both, though Top Secret, give no clue as to the subject of the meeting he is being directed to attend. A Top Secret War Council agenda refers to a letter from Vannevar Bush. No one who received it had any clue concerning its subject, even though all other agenda items list a subject. Just how many old-timers who worked on classified matters in Washington did NF discuss these matters with? Not having seen the not-released classified executive orders, why do NF say its content, like its format, "seems incompatible with authenticity?"

NF claim they studied hundreds of genuine Truman documents and found that Truman habitually signed his name immediately under the body of the text. They give two examples which meet this standard and expect us to accept that there are no instances in which the spacing matched that on the Truman-Forrestal memo.

I am surprised that NF never ask the question why there would even have been a signature on the White House copy of a memo from Truman to Forrestal. Presumably the original would have gone to Forrestal and a carbon to Truman, Bush and the Director of Central Intelligence, since they are named in it. For all I or they know, the signature could have indeed been added for President-elect Eisenhower's sake in 1952 by the guys at the CIA to save problems with the next administration. We just don't know.

NF claim, without foundation, that it was proven that the TF memo was faked. They do use the term "identical" for the signature in comparison with that of the Truman-Bush letter of October 1, 1947. Their source is Klass' "smoking-gun" memo of September 20, 1989. Of course, as persons who used a light table for comparison found out, it was not identical at all. Now NF are saying it was stretched by copying. Are we to believe that only *part* of it was stretched?

No attention is paid to the fact that the date September 24, 1947, has a period after it, as did almost all items from Bush's offices; that the date is the only one in the last eight months of 1947 when Bush met with Truman; that Forrestal was also present; that Bush and Forrestal met for 30 minutes prior to the meeting and left together; that we have no classified notes with regard to the meeting; and that both men were certainly sufficiently trusted by Truman to have prepared the executive order for his signature in the first place, with the date added at Bush's office. The old-timers tell me that sometimes as much as 90 percent of the stuff signed by Truman was prepared by someone else.

Is it enough to claim that no other signature noticed by NF matched as closely the one on the FT memo? The real question ought to be: did any other pair of signatures match as closely? The answer is, we don't know. I will give NF credit for not echoing Klass' silly notion that the numerical portion of the date "24, 1947" was typed at a different time and in a different

type style from the "September" and the rest of the memo because the forger had a typewriter on which the numerical keys (and presumably the period and comma) didn't work. Anybody who believes that would, I am sure, be happy to buy a bridge I just bought in Brooklyn.

NF claim it was eventually "proven" that the memo was faked. Bold claim, feeble evidence.

On what grounds do NF assert that the date on the briefing cover "18 November, 1952" should have been written "18 November 1952" and that it contains an anomalous comma? Were they running the CIA or NSC or Operation Majestic-12 or whatever office typed the memo (assuming for the moment that it may be real)? Do NF think that only one date format was in use by all government agencies or even always the same in one agency?

As proof of the frequent inconsistency of date formats in official Washington in the 1950s, here are the dates typed on three brief memos from Allen W. Dulles, CIA director, to Col. A. J. Goodpaster, staff secretary at the White House: "12 November 1956," "November 20, 1956," and "NOV 22 1956." Here are the dates on four letters from Gen. Walter Bedell Smith to Gen. George C. Marshall (Smith is listed as the permanent replacement for Secretary Forrestal on MJ-12 as of "01 August, 1950"; he replaced Hillenkoetter as CIA director in late 1950 and served until January 20, 1953): "29 December 1952"; "26 October, 1954"—note comma; "Oct. 7, 1954," and "12/29/54."

As an indication of Smith's close connection with Ike during the latter half of 1952, and probable connection with the preparation of the briefing, there is a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT (from Smith), dated "JAN 9 1953": "During the campaign General Eisenhower and Governor [Adlai E.] Stevenson were each briefed four times at their convenience by an Agency representative . . . . Since the election I have personally briefed General Eisenhower four times." The election was held on November 4, 1952, and Ike visited Korea secretly between then and the end of the year. Ike was briefed in the Pentagon vault on November 18, 1952, the date of the supposed MJ-12 briefing. Twining was there. In 1989 I learned that August 1 was the only date in the first 10 months of 1950 when Smith met with Truman. How did the "forger" know that?

The lack of format consistency is further demonstrated in carbon copies of two brief letters to Vannevar Bush from President Truman:

(1) September 25, 1947: starts "My dear Dr. Bush"; single-spaced elite type; under "Sincerely yours," "(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN" (rubber stamp). Attached to it are portions of two drafts. The first has a note at the top "(Draft of Letter to Dr. Vannevar Bush as given over telephone by Captain Robert Berry, Secretary of Defense's Office)." Truman edited this draft by hand.

(2) October 1, 1947: "Dear Dr. Bush"; double-spaced pica type; under the "Sincerely yours," "HARRY S. TRUMAN" (rubber stamp but no [Sgd]). The last two lines of the address are first "Joint Research and Development Board Washington, D.C." and "The Joint Research and Development Board, Washington 25, D.C."

One folder in the Office of the Secretary of Defense files for 1952 had seven different date formats. I have been unable so far to obtain copies of Smith's briefings or of two others, listed on DSD file cards, interestingly enough not from the CIA, but dated November 18, 1952, though I have made requests of the Ike and Truman Libraries and the CIA.

I don't hold much hope for a fast response from the CIA, based on experience with the difficulties those few of us seriously interested in unraveling the puzzle of MJ-12 have experienced. I sought the 23 CIA-originating UFO-related documents the National Security Agency claimed (in its response to a FOIA suit) to have found when it located its own highly-classified, still-unreleased 156 UFO documents. The list included specific dates for each. The CIA responded 35 months later, releasing nine of the 23. All nine were, incredibly, press abstracts of Eastern European newspaper articles about UFOs, presumably in Soviet hands from the date of issue! I appealed the CIA's refusal to release any of its own 14 UFO documents. Twenty-four months later it responded to my appeal by releasing a line or two on each of four documents and withholding in their entirety the other four.

It is true that I have not found other documents by Hillenkoetter with the "07 July, 1947" date format or other CIA briefings for Ike with any date format. Is this supposed to prove that none exists? It is also true that during one of my many trips to the Eisenhower Library, in February 1988, a significant fraction of the National Security Council materials had not yet been even reviewed from a security standpoint and that much of what had been reviewed was not declassifiable. It is also true that I requested mandatory classification review at that time for a number of items listed in very limited detail on one of a myriad of withdrawal sheets. I received my first response on an NSC item two years later, on March 6, 1990. Interestingly, it had been Secret and was head "Message to General Cutler from Lay." (James Lay was executive secretary of the NSC. Cutler was Ike's national security adviser.) It was dated, of all things, July 16, 1954, when Cutler was in Europe. It is a brief review of the many items discussed at the previous day's NSC meeting and contained this line at the end: "Hope you will recuperate, rest and enjoy yourself for few days before returning. Will try to have everything tidy and not too much pressure upon you when you arrive." Obviously Lay had heard from Cutler while the latter was gone.

I am sure NF would not approve of the format. Some think Cutler was out of touch while he was in Europe. Not only did the note from Cutler dated July 3, 1954, have no signature and no heading other than Mr. Lay—Mr. Coyne and said, "Keep things moving out of my basket," but it also had "c. Only cable other news if really exciting or dramatic or I could be useful." The only Lay memo cited by NF, during Cutler's trip and more or less in Cutler's name, is an official item dealing with atomic-energy matters and going to two recipients. The Cutler-Twining memo is a brief notification of a change in plans for a briefing. Since Ike met with Lay and his assistant Everett Gleason at 2:30 p.m. on July 14, 1954, and talked by phone with Lay at about 4:30, one suspects that he told Lay to notify Twining of a slight change in plans in Cutler's name.

The point here is that it is not my fault that I have not yet demonstrated the combination of comma and digital date. I have yet to find any documents from Hillenkoetter from 1952, though I was the one who provided the earlier ones by him to attorney Robert Bletchman, who provided them to Nickell. Where are any documents that NF have put into the pot? Why don't they mention the long delay and great difficulty in getting highly-classified documents from the 1947–1960 era? Or

haven't they ever tried obtain such documents?

I am intrigued by Prof. Jean Pival's remarks, although without a complete text extended commentary is impossible. Certainly what she says is carefully couched and does not prove either way whether Hillenkoetter did or did not write the briefing. NF do not mention that the briefing is much longer than any of the 22 exemplars I provided. I can see no particular basis for her statement that phrases probably would have been qualified. The first three examples are conclusions for which there were sufficient data available to reach the conclusion stated. For example, if the story and comment are genuine, what else could be said than that the symbols appear to be a form of writing? Or that it is assumed that the propulsion unit was completely destroyed? Since investigators couldn't know of what the propulsion unit consisted, or what the alien form of writing was, how could they make an unqualified statement? Presumably almost all the conclusions of the group would have been tentative at that time.

NF seem to be unfamiliar with the National Archives' changing of its statement about the paper on which the CT memo appears. This happened because the Eisenhower Library notified the Archives and informed it that it had been mistaken. I had pointed out to the EL archivist (who then checked for himself) that there were numerous onionskin carbons of items from Cutler done on plain onionskin, not the watermarked kind that the Archives had declared all his copies were on. Trying to go through tens of thousands of files listed in the 11 different Finders Aids for the NSC materials to find all onionskin copies from Cutler and hold them up to the light to find a watermark seemed to me to be much less important than trying to get solid information and a good understanding of the many different styles, types, formats, security markings and so on. One can only wonder what the NF/Klass/Greenwood response would have been if I had found some of the "right" kind of onionskin, i.e., the same as that used for the CT memo. I suspect it would have been this: any good forger could have found some, aged it and added the significant (but in reality unmentioned by critics) slant red pencil mark through the security markings.

I don't "concede" the CT memo could have been planted. I state boldly that it had to be planted—but by an outsider. It certainly had nothing to do with anything else in Box 189. I also quoted from an Archives letter to me concerning the question of who had access to that box which was (contrary to the strange impression given by Greenwood) stored in a "TOP SECRET Security Storage area." The declassification of the record group of which that box was a small part took roughly six months and involved numerous four-person teams of Air Force reservists, each spending about two weeks in a classified work area in which the searchers could bring briefcases and other materials not permitted in the public reading room at the Archives. Box 189 was reviewed by an Air Force officer between September 24 and 28, 1984 (only two weeks after the last surviving alleged MJ-12 original member, Jerome Hunsaker, died), and was reviewed again on June 20 and 24, 1985, with two documents withdrawn on June 24. That would have been a good time to slip a one-page document inside. The Archives claims it does not have the names of the reviewing personnel.

I was notified shortly thereafter that the review was completed. Moore and Shandera were there a few days later and after going through 126 boxes they found the CT memo in Box 189.

NF claim that the many anomalous and suspicious elements detected in the MJ-12 papers clearly demonstrate that the documents are forgery. Not so. They demonstrate, not surprisingly with regard to what would be extraordinarily sensitive information, that there are anomalies and unanswered questions.

Is it not true that Klass found the original of the October 1, 1947, letter in material received from me? What is this "purloined" signature? Now we have claims that the signatures were identical (which is false) and then slightly stretched.

How can NF argue that Klass' smoking-gun conclusion was backed by a whole room of forensic document examiners? The reference given is to a statement by Klass, who has hardly distinguished himself for reliability concerning anything about UFOs in general or Roswell and MJ-12 in particular. Did the room get the full story or just Klass' version of it? Even document examiners admit that documents get retyped.

I find the section on the forger incredible. Here we have a detective and teacher of business and technical writing (Nickell) and a specialist in laser technology of forensic research (Fischer) playing amateur psychiatrists.

My work on Donald H. Menzel revealed a host of facts not previously known to anybody outside the intelligence community. NF, however, content themselves with citing the opinions of Jerome Clark and Philip J. Klass. They are entitled to their views, of course. But neither they nor any other outsiders knew, before I discovered it, that Menzel had a longstanding connection with the NSA and the CIA, was an expert cryptanalyst, had learned Japanese, had a TOP SECRET ULTRA clearance and in 1950 went through the hell of a loyalty hearing at which his staunchest defender was Vannevar Bush. I am well aware that Moseley, Florence (Mrs. Donald) Menzel and Menzel's close friend Ernest Taves could not accept that Menzel could lead a double life. Yet extraordinary double lives are well known (or notorious) in the history of the 20th Century—the case of Soviet spies Burgess, McLean, Philby and others within British intelligence, for example. ■

(c) Stanton T. Friedman

■■■■■■■■

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Innocent on all counts

by William L. Moore

■■ William L. Moore is coauthor, with Charles Berlitz, of *The Roswell Incident* (1980) and author of numerous articles and papers on cover-up issues.

Far from the scholarly paper it presents itself to be, the Nickell-Fischer piece in this issue is essentially no more than an *ad hominem* attack on me. It also fails to provide significant new information on the MJ-12 question. These "independent" investigators draw largely on the work of others who long ago committed their thoughts, findings and theories to print. There is also, readers will note, no evidence that NF devoted any time and effort to a serious examination of both sides of the issue.

Let me make clear from the outset that I have never characterized the MJ-12 papers as unquestionably authentic. Every statement I have ever made about them, whether to large groups in public or to my closest friends in private, has always included a disclaimer of some kind. Those who heard me speak in Washington, D.C., in June 1987, not long after we released these documents to the public, will recall my saying that my colleagues and I felt we had gone about as far as was possible with them in private and that we now welcomed the assistance of other researchers in trying to get to the bottom of the matter. Only a few offers came in. After careful consideration we accepted some and rejected others. Among those rejected was one made by NF who assumed, apparently, that because they had offered their services we were obliged to accept them. Indeed, Nickell later resorted to making veiled threats. He would raise "troublesome questions" if his efforts to obtain information from us were not successful, Nickell wrote in an October 26, 1989, letter. That threat is carried out in the paper you have just read —first by implying that our choice not to cooperate with him was motivated by fear that he might uncover something and second, by complaining that our withholding of "crucial evidence" left him with no alternative but to pursue the forgery hypothesis.

Actually, several things need to be said here if we are to balance NF's lopsided account. The first is an observation that I had thought would be evident to anyone taking the time to think about it. As already stated, I have been careful to avoid making any blanket endorsement of the relevant documents. This was not because I knew them to be forgeries (I didn't) but because I felt it was improper to either endorse or condemn them until all of the evidence was in. As soon as the documents became public, researchers quickly divided into two camps: the wait-and-see group (which was the larger) and the debunkers (smaller but certainly more vocal). Given these circumstances, it would have been difficult to keep dialogue going (after the initial flurry of interest) had someone not taken an advocacy position. Despite our nonendorsement of the documents' authenticity, the role of advocate naturally fell upon us since we had released the information in the first place.

Unfortunately many people have mistaken our advocacy-for-the-sake-of-continued-dialogue as an unqualified brief for authenticity. What we desired then, and continue to work toward now, is an investigation that is as complete and unbiased as possible, with all sides of all issues being set forth and scrutinized. NF's article is not this kind of even-handed examination. Fortunately such a document is in preparation and copies of it should be available to interested individuals by the time you read this. (For further information on availability, write to me at 4219 West Olive Avenue #247, Burbank, California 91505.)

Another thing to be pointed out here, in keeping with the "there are two sides to every issue" concept, is that while NF go to great pains to quote early material from Jerome Clark extolling their virtues and recommending their talents, they fail to note Clark's expression of concern to us after he learned that Nickell had voiced his conviction to others that UFOs are not of extraterrestrial origin and that therefore the MJ-12 documents must be forgeries. It was precisely this prior bias, coupled with Nickell's CSICOP connections (he was a scientific and technical consultant to the organization and since has been elevated to the status of a Fellow; he has also published books with Prometheus, the publishing house headed by CSICOP chairman Paul Kurtz), that convinced us there was nothing to be gained by cooperating with two individuals who already had their minds made up. (Those who desire proof of prior bias need look no further than the article above, wherein NF refer to the Roswell incident as a "mythological" event. An odd choice of adjectives for two individuals who claim to be open-minded.)

Actually, there was another reason we chose not to cooperate with NF—that being that we had already enlisted the assistance of other forensic experts to whom we had been led as a result of conversations with both the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the FBI. Although both organizations had been kind enough to provide us with lists of nationally-recognized questioned-document examiners, the names Nickell and Fischer were nowhere to be seen; nor had anyone with whom we discussed this matter ever heard of them. Nickell falsely states that neither Jaime Shandera nor I troubled to reply to his letters. The fact is that I personally replied to his second request (his first having been addressed not to me but to Shandera) and spent nearly two pages outlining the problems of cooperating with him as I saw them. Indeed, I even went so far as to leave the door open on the matter of cooperation, providing Nickell could convince me that he could make a worthwhile contribution to our work. He responded with an arrogant letter and that, so far as I was concerned, was that.

Even when NF's own investigations produced results suggesting that at least one of the documents may be authentic, they scrambled to find some alternative way of explaining the evidence. During their "investigation" NF discovered that a respected linguistics expert, Roger Wescott of Drew University, had been commissioned in the latter part of 1987 to compare the text of the so-called Eisenhower Briefing Document (EBD), allegedly written by Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, with 27 known-to-be-authentic examples of other Hillenkoetter documents. This study was arranged through MUFON's director of public relations, Robert Bletchman, and Dr. Wescott received a fee for his work. The result was a professional opinion from Wescott to the effect that he "could find no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself."

Unable to accept such an opinion even if it did come from a world-class expert with two pages of credentials to his credit, NF dismissed it as "flawed" and the "subject of controversy" (on the say-so of no less than world-class nonauthority Philip J. Klass) and commissioned a study of their own. This, they claim, was done not by some disinterested authority but rather by one Prof. Jean Pival, an unknown identified by NF only as an "expert who [had] assisted [them] in previous cases."

Pival's report must have come as something of a surprise to NF, since her opinion was a virtual endorsement of what Wescott had said earlier. However much they seek to convince the reader that the professor could not possibly have meant to say what she said, or that there must be alternative explanations for, or loopholes in, her findings, the bottom line, in NF's words, says it all: "[Pival] could not say conclusively whether or not the admiral wrote the briefing document." Clearly this conclusion was unpalatable to NF. They spend their next two paragraphs throwing up clouds of circumstantial evidence in an effort to modify its impact. The discerning reader, however, will recognize that Pival's opinion, like Wescott's, must be interpreted as suggestive of Hillenkoetter authorship.

Indeed, virtually every point that NF make in their report rests either upon purely circumstantial evidence or upon a warped assessment of the facts. For example:

NF seem so eager to accept Gen. Ramey's identification of the Roswell device as a "radar target formed of foiled paper . . . balsa [wood] . . . and balloons" that they not only choose to ignore the testimony of no fewer than seven firsthand witnesses who actually touched the stuff, but neglect to answer the question of how such a small device could have produced such a mass of wreckage. Either all the witnesses involved are lying in concert or NF have unilaterally decided that the testimony, failing to relate what they want to hear, is of no account. Since they produce no evidence in support of the former, we are certainly not out of line in concluding the latter.

I find it curious that NF are reduced to quoting almost decade-old biographical material on me, and even then they don't get it right. My teaching career, for example, began in 1965, not 1966, and I have only a single one-act drama to my credit, not "a couple" of them. In addition, while it is true that I attended Duquesne University between 1968 and 1972 "without, however, receiving a [graduate] degree," NF are apparently unaware that I also attended St. John's and Moorhead State Universities (both in Minnesota) and have sufficient credits to claim an M.S. equivalency in education (recognized as a valid credential in the teaching profession). I also either am or was certified to teach in three states and have considerable experience in public sector labor relations.

In a November 29, 1989, letter to me, Nickell wrote that he and Fischer had approached their investigation of the MJ-12 papers with "open minds." How, I wonder, does this self-flattery square with NF's decision to cite only negative reviews of my published works when there are plenty of positive ones on record as well?

NF refer to my letterhead which they claim features a "caricature of [me] as a paste-up artist." The clear implication—which I deeply resent—is that if Moore is a paste-up artist, then he must also be a forger.

The fact is that the little caricature of the "paste-up artist" on my stationery is there as a memorial. The character is not me at all. It is a self-caricature of a close friend, Harry Burns, a graphic artist (not a paste-up man) who died young and tragically many years ago, in the 1960s. Harry and I had planned to go into business together and he drew that caricature as a part of a proposed logo. He died shortly thereafter, leaving a wife and two small children. I have used that logo ever since as a private and personal tribute.

The implication that Friedman stole the title "UFOs: Earth's Cosmic Watergate" from me is nonsense. In fact, the "work-in-progress" mentioned by NF was a book which was to be coauthored by Friedman and me; the title was suggested by Friedman himself. We actually had a publishing contract for the work and had received an advance, but the publisher pulled out of the deal as part of a general cut-back on titles during the height of the Reagan recession. I still have a copy of the manuscript on my shelf.

The allegation that I "deprived" Stanton of proper credit for the work he put into *The Roswell Incident* is also without foundation. Stanton's agreed-upon one-page acknowledgement was cut, over my strong objections, by the publisher. His claim to have "served as a research consultant" for the book is based on a contractual arrangement and is therefore correct.

Reports that Stanton and I are on the outs with one another are based on nothing more than exaggerated rumors of a disagreement between friends. Even gossip, it seems, is not beneath NF when they think they might gain a few points with it. (Note that the "scholarly" source for this one is Jim Moseley's *Saucer Smear* newsletter. Note, too, how often NF quote Moseley as an authority on the MJ-12 matter. How curious that in the process of attacking me they should accept, on blind faith alone, information that comes from a man who once confessed to having helped counterfeit a purportedly official UFO document [the "Straith letter"] in the George Adamski case.)

Yes, Jaime Shandera is a "virtual unknown in so far as ufology is concerned." So why was the roll of film containing the MJ-12 documents sent to him? I really don't know; but it could possibly be because one of the conditions Jaime insisted on before agreeing to participate in our project was that he be permitted to meet and verify each of the inside sources involved. Whether he was a "virtual unknown" to ufology had nothing to do with this process. The fact is that by December 1984, when the roll of film was received, Jaime was already a well-known entity to all of the inside sources with whom we were dealing.

I cannot imagine why NF include references to the "spurious Beale-treasure papers." In doing so, however, they

provide us with an excellent opportunity to assess just what kinds of "authorities" they are and what sort of "research" lies behind their pronouncements. Let's examine the "scholarship" here:

The Beale-treasure papers are "spurious," say NF without qualification, citing Nickell himself as authority. And are there any other authorities cited just in case one may still have doubts? Yes, there's James B. Ward's "The Beale Papers" in the paperback *Gold in the Blue Ridge*. But is this an article on the "spuriousness" (is that a word?) of the Beale papers as NF would have us believe? No, actually it is not. It's just a reprint of Ward's 1885 tract on the papers themselves; it contains no hint that they may be spurious. And what of NF's allegation that the original Beale papers were "destroyed in a fire and only printed copies remain?" As it turns out, NF have the situation reversed. According to D. A. Nicklow's "Beale's Buried Treasure" (*Run*, August 1984, pp. 50ff), copies of Ward's 1885 pamphlet were destroyed in that a fire—an assertion that, by the way, is supported by the Pennsylvania-based Beale Treasure Association.

We see a similar kind of mentality at work in NF's comment about Richard Doty, whom they identify as a "former Air Force security agent reportedly 'decertified' for misconduct." Aside from the misidentification of Doty (who was a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, not a "security agent"), there is an important question of motive here. Is it "open-minded," I wonder, to report in print that an individual was decertified from his job for misconduct and then fail to mention that the man was completely exonerated of all charges and offered reinstatement in good standing? (Do I rely on Doty's word for this? No, I have the documents.)

Attacking Doty on the basis of unfounded charges is one thing. Casting aspersions on my family background is another. I refer here to NF's uncalled-for parenthetical implication that my father's employment in a "semi-skilled occupation" must have proven frustrating to my "domineering" mother. This is outrageous license.

I must say that I never expected to find myself in a position of having to defend my mother's feelings about my father in print. Nonetheless, while I can't say what went on in private between them, I can say that not once have I ever heard my mother voice any complaint or frustration about my father's station in life. My parents have been married for 51 years. My father was always a good provider. He was a union man, worked for the same company for over 40 years and was paid a good wage with excellent benefits. Several years ago he retired on a good pension. My mother has been a housewife since they were married. She has never held an outside job, nor to my knowledge has she ever wanted one. Indeed, the one time I can recall asking her why she didn't go out and get a job, she looked at me and said quietly, "My job is here. I keep house for your father and I wouldn't be happy doing anything else." The "archivist-historian" thing derives from the fact that Mother serves the local historical society in that capacity and makes a full-time hobby of doing historical research. She is widely known and respected for her work, even though she has only a high-school education.

As for NF's profile of their alleged forger as an "extroversive personality" with "good organizational capacities": I'm afraid they're way off base if they think for a moment that I fit such a mold. As anyone who knows me well will tell you, I'm basically an introversive soul and one of the world's worst organizers. I also have a high regard for the truth.

Why did I see fit to censor portions of the MJ-12 documents when we first released them? Was it to further the cloak-and-dagger aspects of the case? Should it be taken as evidence, as NF seem to imply, that "once an alterer of documents, always an alterer of documents," and that therefore forgery cannot be far behind? No, it was for quite different and entirely aboveboard motives. At the time the documents were first released, we had no way of knowing whether anyone else in the UFO community had also received them. Knowing the history of American ufology as we do, we felt fairly certain that once we went public with this material, there would be people crawling out of the woodwork (as Bill Cooper would later do) claiming that they, too, had knowledge of this material. It was our feeling that the best way to determine whether anyone else possessed the same documents was to go public with only part of them and see if anyone came forward to fill in the blanks. No one did.

It is for that same reason, by the way, that we continue to withhold additional documentation in our possession.

So much for the smaller points. Certainly NF make a number of larger ones which need to be dealt with as well. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to do more than summarize them in this rebuttal and refer readers to our exhaustive report on the main issues raised by the MJ-12-document controversy. This is well on its way to completion and should be available to interested individuals by the time this issue of *IUR* reaches you. This comprehensive document will include virtually all of the research we have conducted on the MJ-12 matter over the past decade. It will also be a balanced report. Unlike the NF document above, its pages will be devoted to a careful, complete and professional examination of all sides of any given issue.

Let me summarize NF's major points, along with my responses:

Type faces. NF's paper ignores this area of research except to note that their alleged forger "obviously used different typewriters" and that the Truman document was reportedly typed on a "post-1947 machine." Our MJ-12 document report will:

(1) contain in-depth information on the typewriter typefaces, including comparative illustrations;

(2) refute the charge that the Truman document was typed on a post-1947 machine;

(3) make a strong case, based on an analysis of the typewriter and paper, that the Cutler-Twining memorandum is an authentic document.

Date styles. Much has been made of the unusual date style that appears in the EBD and of my use (and continued use) of that style on occasion. The correct question, of course, is not whether I or anyone else uses that style now but whether use of that style can be traced to the times that the EBD allegedly was written. Our investigation has devoted considerable time and effort to this matter and our report will present our findings in full. We will conclude, in essence, that this style is not necessarily as unusual as some would have us believe and that the question of the document's authenticity cannot be decided one way or the other on this issue alone.

Document formats, stampings and style. Friedman's rebuttal in this issue presents a few facts relevant to this aspect of the MJ-12 documents. We have accumulated considerably

more material during the course of our investigation and will present it in our report. During our collection of data we have paid close attention to questions and issues raised by other researchers concerning this subject area, and these will be answered or rebutted in full.

The Truman signature. NF argue that this proves that the documents are crude forgeries. We concede that there is a serious issue here; on the other hand, it is possible to make a reasonable rebuttal of these charges. Our report presents some confusing evidence on both sides of the issue and attempts to sort it all out. For example, it can be demonstrated that whoever typed the document had access to a typewriter of the same make and model (if not the same machine) as one known to have been in use in Vannevar Bush's office at the time (1947); yet only the numbers in the date are typed on that machine. The body of the document was typed on another machine. If we assume for the moment that the document is a forgery, why would a forger, having access to the first machine, need to use the second at all? As Friedman points out, Klass' argument that the forger had to use a second machine because the numbers didn't work on the first is contrived and inadequate. In addition, we will present two examples of authentic Truman signatures where in the "Harry" is virtually identical in both. This is precisely the case with the disputed Truman signature on the MJ-12 document—the "Harry"s are identical, but the "Truman"s are different.

The positioning of Truman's signature will also be dealt with.

Reality, forgery or frame-up? If these documents are real, they speak for themselves. If they are phony, the best explanation, in light of all the known facts, is that they were officially contrived by some agent or agency of the government. Our report will be a straightforward presentation of the evidence at hand. It will be up to the reader to decide what it all means.

In his January 17, 1988, letter to Jaime Shandera, Nickell represented himself and his colleague as follows: "I emphasize the word investigation," he wrote. "Fischer and I, while skeptics, are not debunkers, and we intend to pursue the evidence cautiously and objectively, following it wherever it may lead and hoping to avoid rash judgments . . . ."

Examine their report and decide for yourself whether the result is in keeping with the claim. I think you will find, in the words of Shakespeare, that theirs is a tale "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." ■

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EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

much longer can the presence in our atmospheric of extraordinary machinelike aerial objects be plausibly ignored by the scientific community or denied by official authority? The mere persistence of the UFO phenomenon we have observed the last 4 1/2 decades has itself been an embarrassment to the conventionalists, whose labored explanations meet with mounting public incredulity the longer the phenomenon demonstrates it cannot be wished out of existence. Neither common sense nor experiential precedent, after all, supports the proposition that a phenomenon which is reported worldwide by all sorts of solid citizens, and which gets seen by multiple witnesses, is tracked on radar and leaves ground traces, and which persists in spite of decades of withering ridicule and emotional denunciation, is the product solely of delusion and deceit. But if that phenomenon starts to escalate its activity, to make itself more visible (both figuratively and literally), how much longer can a "controversy" about its very existence be sustained?

Meanwhile the abduction phenomenon becomes ever more ubiquitous, even in the face of new campaigns to contort it or mock it out of existence, via contrived psychological or occult mechanisms, or not infrequently both; see some of the strange notions enunciated in Dennis Stillings' recent anthology, titled—I am not kidding—*Cyberbiological Studies of the Imaginal Component in the UFO Contact Experience.* (I shall spare readers all but one of these: the suggestion that ufologists are interested in UFO reports not, as you would think, because such reports are intrinsically interesting but because the ufologists experienced "traumatic childhoods." In this, as in other woolly pseudoscientific speculations of the sort that abound in this curious book, no supporting evidence is advanced. Since this is an *ad hominem* argument, not a scientific hypothesis, perhaps it would be unreasonable to ask for such evidence if *Cyberbiological Studies* were not, as its pompous moniker makes clear, masquerading as a serious work.) Yet the more the real investigators, whether ufologists, scientists or medical professionals, probe the phenomenon, the less probable the subjectivist interpretations seem. The handwaving arguments aside, no one has successfully accounted for the multiple-witness, physical-evidence and other aspects of the phenomenon, much less the intricate patterns documented by Eddie Bullard, among others. As Bullard suggests, common experience, not common fantasy, is the more likely explanation for these remarkable similarities. And that is not all. There is also a different sort of evidence, which does not rest solely on human testimony (however compelling), which I will leave to others to describe when they are prepared to do so. Meanwhile well-placed figures in the scientific community quietly enter the investigation and communicate with trusted ufologists. They do not discuss "imaginal components," "birth traumas" or "fantasy-prone personalities." These sorts of interpretations are likely to expire of terminal irrelevance.

And the investigation of the Roswell incident continues, thanks to the inspired and tireless work of CUFOS' Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle. One result will be the publication of what may be a seminal work in the literature, *Roswell*, which, among other happy consequences, should lay forever to rest the canards that UFOs neither exist nor crash and that the cover-up exists only as paranoid ufologists' "conspiracy theory." (Not that the notion of official UFO secrecy, real or otherwise, could ever be fairly or accurately characterized as a "conspiracy

continued on page 23

Fort Worth, July 8, 1947: the cover-up begins

by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle

■■ Don Schmitt is CUFOS' director of special investigations. Kevin D. Randle, a former Air Force intelligence officer, is a professional writer. Schmitt and Randle's book on their investigation of the Roswell incident will be published in November.

The world press was in an uproar on July 8, 1947, following the announcement by Lt. Walter Haut that members of the 509th Bomb Group, Roswell Army Air Field (later Walker Air Force Base), had captured a flying saucer. Phone lines into Roswell, including those to both local newspapers (*Roswell Morning Dispatch* and *Roswell Daily Record*), both radio stations (KGFL and KSWS), the sheriff's office, and the base itself were tied up as reporters from around the world tried to learn more about the crash and recovery.

Focus shifted late in the day to the Fort Worth Army Air Field (later Carswell Air Force Base), where Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force, announced that the wreckage recovered was nothing more than a weather balloon. He made this statement at what has, until today, been thought to be a typical press conference. Our investigation has discovered what actually occurred that evening, and how Ramey deceived the press (and public) about what had been found at Roswell. The high-level coverup began that evening in Ramey's office.

Previous accounts of that evening in the media made it seem that Ramey talked to a number of reporters and answered several questions about the recovery. But Ramey actually held no press conference, thus preventing any serious scrutiny of the military's story. Instead, he talked with one reporter, who also took two pictures which were sent on the wires later that evening. Other reporters were not allowed on the base. What follows is our reconstruction of what actually occurred in Fort Worth.

Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, the air intelligence officer of the 509th Bomb Group, was ordered to Fort Worth by Ramey on the afternoon of July 8. Marcel had assisted with the initial recovery of debris on July 7. According to Robert Porter, a sergeant with the 509th, Marcel and a small amount of the debris were loaded onto a B-29 and flown to Fort Worth about three in the afternoon.

The military arranged for one reporter to meet with Ramey and view the debris after it arrived with Marcel in Fort Worth. J. Bond Johnson, a reporter for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, was sent out to the air base. According to Johnson, "The AP [Associated Press] picked up that they were flying it [the wreckage] down there. [When] I walked into the *Star-Telegram*, I was primarily a reporter, but I had a camera that I carried in the car. The city editor came over and said, 'Bond, you got your camera?' and I said 'yes,' and he said to get out to Gen. Ramey's office. 'They've got a flying saucer and they're bringing it up from Roswell.'"

Johnson drove out to the base and was surprised when the guard had a pass ready for him. He was taken to Ramey's office where there was wreckage scattered on the floor. According to Johnson, it was flimsy stuff, aluminum foil, balsa wood, and some rubber material which had been burned and was "stinking up the place." Johnson said he was surprised that Ramey would allow it in his office.

They talked about it for 15 or 20 minutes and then Johnson took two pictures of the wreckage. One of them showed Ramey crouched by the debris, and the second showed both Ramey and his Chief of Staff, Col. Thomas Dubois. It was obvious from the pictures that the material was nothing extraordinary.

Johnson, having used all the film he had with him, returned to the newspaper office where he found several reporters waiting for him. A bus had brought them from Dallas, along with a portable machine to send wire photos. Johnson was rushed into the darkroom to develop the film and make the first prints. He brought them out, dripping, because the editor wanted some immediately. The pictures were put on the transmitter and sent out with the story that the wreckage was nothing more than a weather balloon. In fact, Ramey had brought in Warrant Officer Irving Newton, a weather officer, who agreed that what was in Ramey's office was nothing other than a weather balloon.

Newton said that he had been alone in the weather office, that Ramey had told him "to get my ass over there." When he arrived, he knew immediately that the debris was nothing more than a weather balloon. Newton said that Marcel was in the office then, that there were several military officers and a couple of reporters. The reporters were probably from the local radio stations.

As had happened in Roswell, the world press began

calling Fort Worth. Johnson said he received dozens of calls, all from newspapers or photo services asking for exclusive pictures, but Johnson had only taken two. There were no others to be had, at the moment.

According to press accounts, Ramey appeared on a local radio program later that evening, saying that nothing interesting had been found at Roswell. He claimed that the officers there had been panicked into making a snap decision because of all the recent talk around the country about flying discs. When a rancher brought the weather balloon to their attention, they had been caught up in the hysteria. There was nothing else to the story.

It must have seemed fairly cut and dried to the press. Some unusual material was found, brought in, and identified. Nothing to get excited about. A weather balloon found under unusual circumstances.

The account above is accurate and is the public version of events, but we know now that there was much more to this story than was apparent on July 8, 1947. First, what happened to the material that Porter reported was loaded on his B-29? Was that debris from a downed weather balloon or something else entirely? According to Porter there were only a few packages loaded on his plane. One of them was triangular, two or three feet long, and wrapped in brown paper. Porter was personally handed three or four small shoebox-sized packages, also wrapped in brown paper. The packages, he says, felt as if they contained nothing at all. All the packages were kept up front, close to the cockpit.

Upon arriving in Forth Worth late in the afternoon, the crew were ordered to stay with the aircraft until it had been refueled and readied for the return to Roswell. Marcel apparently accompanied the packages to Ramey's office for inspection. Until he died, Marcel contended that those packages contained some of the actual debris, not the remnants of a weather balloon. Our evidence supports his testimony.

Marcel showed the contents of the packages to Ramey, placing some of the debris on the general's desk. Ramey wanted to know exactly where it had been found, so they left the office and went to the map room. When they returned, the real debris was gone, replaced by a torn weather balloon. We don't know what Marcel said when he discovered the switch, but Marcel in later interviews did say that Ramey indicated that he (Ramey) was now in charge, and that Marcel was not to talk to the press.

There are actually five photos in existence showing military personnel and the weather balloon. Two of them show Marcel, but as explained above, neither was taken by Johnson. We have discovered that the two with Marcel were probably taken by the base Public Information Officer, Maj. Charles A. Cashon. They were taken before Johnson arrived on the base. The weather balloon was spread out on the floor, two pictures with Marcel were taken, and then Ramey told Marcel to leave the room and avoid any reporters. The photo on the cover, with Marcel and the fake debris, is the first unretouched reproduction that has ever been published. Another photo was taken of Newton and the balloon. Again, Johnson didn't take that picture.

Johnson arrived sometime after Marcel had been sent away. Johnson talked with Ramey about the debris. Ramey told him it was nothing more than a weather balloon. Johnson took his two photos and then left, not knowing that the real debris had been replaced just before he arrived. Ramey then went on radio station WBAP to explain that everything was a mistake, a misidentification.

We can find no evidence for a large press conference with dozens of reporters. At such a press conference, many reporters would have been taking their own photos; yet only five photos have ever surfaced (and two only on July 8). This fact plus the testimony we have gathered in interviews with the participants makes it clear that there was no press conference worthy of the name. Some reporters did go to the base, but were turned back. Ramey had carefully stage-managed events, and his cover story of a downed weather balloon short-circuited the interest of the press.

Marcel stayed at Fort Worth overnight but never spoke to reporters. If he had been allowed to talk freely, the cover story would have been in jeopardy. Haut had identified Marcel in the press release. Ramey didn't want some wise-guy reporter finding Marcel in Roswell and talking with him, so he was sent to Fort Worth. Jesse Marcel, Jr., confirms that his dad was gone for more than 24 hours, enough time for the story to die an unnatural but quick death.

Questions that were not asked by Johnson at the time now seem obvious. Johnson said that he never thought to ask Ramey why the highly-trained officers at Roswell had not been able to identify the weather balloon when they saw it. He didn't ask why the weather balloon was in such sorry shape. Weather balloons don't normally explode or burn, but he also didn't ask what on the balloon was causing the stench of burned rubber.

As we have shown in our previous article in *IUR* (November/December 1989), the cover story was most likely taken from the Circleville, Ohio, event of July 5, 1947. Mrs. Sherman Campbell, the wife of the farmer who found the weather balloon that went down in Ohio, was shown in news photos holding a kitelike appendage from that balloon. We believe that the military used the Ohio incident as a model, which is why the balloon in Ramey's office was pulled around so it would have a kitelike appearance.

The military probably realized that something disclike was needed, because the Roswell personnel initially thought they had recovered a flying disc. So a new feature was added, a Rawin target device, which is a six-sided object that was used to reflect radar waves and track the balloon's position. The device was not displayed in Ramey's office, as far as we know, but Newton is

quoted in the press saying, "When rigged up, the object looks like a six pointed star, is silvery in appearance, and rises in the air like a kite." That pretty well covered all the bases.

Johnson returned to the waiting reporters with this nonsensational story. As the explanation filtered out, the phones stopped ringing and reporters soon lost interest. By July 10 or 11, worldwide interest in the Roswell story had faded. There was nothing new being told to the press, even though the work of picking up the wreckage from the ranch was still going on. When all sources were saying the same (mundane) thing, and there was no reason to suspect that the military was lying, the story died.

Understandably the military was in control of the situation. It controlled events in Roswell and was able to restrict press access to Marcel and others, confident that no one would complain or even know what was being done. It is important to understand why Marcel didn't go directly to the press, given the actions of government whistle-blowers today. The military personnel involved believed that it was their duty not to talk, as Ramey ordered. Government secrets were just that, secrets, and it was in the best interests of the United States that they remain so. This duty not to talk included other military personnel, as well as the public. Col. Thomas Dubois, Ramey's aide, said in 1989 that Gen. Ramey had told him that he never wanted Dubois to bring up the Roswell event again.

For those who remain unconvinced that there was a Fort Worth deception involving high-ranking elements in the military, here are further remarks made by Col. Dubois: "[We had] orders from on high to ship the material directly to Wright Field by special plane. Ramey was in complete charge and everyone else just followed orders. The weather balloon story was a complete fabrication designed to get the reporters present off Ramey's back in a hurry."

So there wasn't much of a news conference held at Fort Worth, and hard questions couldn't be asked. The debris was switched, but no one suspected the cover story, which was that everyone at Roswell had made a mistake, from Brazel, the man who discovered the wreckage, to Blanchard, the commanding officer of the 509th. The real debris went on to Wright Field, where it, like the events of July 8, 1947, has remained buried for all these years. ■

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Coming in *IUR* . . .

Earthlights — science or revelation?
by Greg Long

The Canadian wave
by Chris Rutkowski

DURING THE past few months many associates of CUFOS have called or written to express their support for our investigation of the Roswell event. All of us at CUFOS wish to thank you for these sentiments. Especially gratifying has been the offer by several persons to volunteer their time and expertise to assist in the investigation. We have already included some of these individuals in the Roswell team. I encourage any others who believe their talents may be helpful to our work to contact me directly.

Also important for the success of the investigation has been the monetary support given to CUFOS. This includes those who have purchased a T-shirt commemorating the 1989 CUFOS Roswell investigation. Dr. Hynek was never one for selling gee-gaws and trinkets with UFO designs, which explains why there are no CUFOS keychains or coffee mugs. But we thought that the Roswell investigation was a worthy reason to change our policy, especially because of the funds required to do the work, both over the phone and in the field.

Our work on Roswell is going as quickly as time and funds permit. We have kept most of the information from public circulation because we cannot break confidences with witnesses or jeopardize them as future sources. As is evident from our published material on Roswell, however, we have not been reluctant to name names and to reveal previously hidden events when appropriate.

We do the same in the article you have just read. Schmitt and Randle's article exemplifies both the thoroughness of the CUFOS investigation and, most important, the lengths to which the military went to cover up the details of the crash and the nature of the wreckage. —*Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director*

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EDITORIAL — *continued from page 20*

theory," unless one holds that *any* belief that governments keep national-security secrets is a conspiracy theory by definition. Conspiracy theories are considerably more convoluted than that, positing secret control of a wide range of political, economic and social forces and sinister, wide-ranging manipulations of people and events for the benefit of the conspirators and the detriment of everybody else. By this definition, the one political scientists [as opposed to polemicists] use, the UFO-cover-up hypothesis, as articulated originally by Donald Keyhoe and later by Bruce Maccabee and Stanton Friedman, is another animal entirely. These days there

are *real* conspiracy theories on ufology's fringes, i.e., the scare-the-rubes-and-count-the-take horror fiction of the new generation of flying-saucer sociopaths, but they need not concern any serious UFO investigator.) Massively documented, *Roswell*, slated for a large printing and wide distribution, is destined to make an impact far outside the UFO community.

If a cover-up exists—and if the Roswell incident is what all available evidence indicates it to be, it certainly does—one can imagine the distress these developments must be causing *inside* the cover-up. At this stage it is impossible to make sense of the many claims being made by those who say they are privy to government UFO secrets, but it is interesting that independent reports from a variety of self-proclaimed Deep Throats allege mounting concern in those quarters. What these sorts of stories amount to, if anything, remains to be seen, but we will probably know one way or another by the end of the decade.

What happens at the end of all this? Perhaps, from the broad perspective of history, the least important question to be asked is this one: If the "UFO controversy" ends in the next few years, does "ufology" as we have known it have a future? Will the word even mean anything, once "UFOs" are no longer unidentified? If we ufologists are right, after all, we are in over our heads. We are struggling with something far, far bigger than any of us. Ours can be nothing more than a holding action, an attempt to record, investigate and document phenomena which require immensely more resources than ufologists have at their disposal. The day is coming, we may be sure, when the scientific community abandons its near-criminal negligence and concedes its shameful failure to address the single most important scientific question of the 20th Century. When that happens—when we ufologists are proven to have been right all along—we will be lucky to enjoy half an hour's worth of vindication before we get trampled to death in the stampede.

Mea culpa: My old friend R. Leo Sprinkle tells me that I goofed when I wrote (November/December 1989 *IUR*) that no formal psychological studies of abductees were undertaken before the 1980s. He is, of course, quite right. Between 1964 and 1968 Dr. Sprinkle surveyed UFO witnesses, using a questionnaire which asked about loss-of-time claims among others. He found that "participants—as a group—responded to personality inventories as 'normal' U.S.A. adults, with some indication of 'above average' characteristics." The study was published as Chapter 14 of Coral and Jim Lorenzen's *Encounters With UFO Occupants* (1976). My apologies for overlooking Leo's pioneering work. Incidentally, Sprinkle reminds me that between 1961 and 1962 he conducted a study of NICAP members, not of their UFO experiences but of their psychological make-up. He asked, alas, no questions about their traumatic childhoods. —*Jerome Clark*

Letters

Disinformation

To the editor:

I regularly read your editorial in *IUR* and I am almost always impressed with your right-on-the-button perspective. Your editorial in the September/October 1989 issue is the best synopsis of the significance (and also lack of same) of the MJ-12 affair that I have yet seen.

By themselves the documents almost certainly cannot be proven authentic. On the other hand, an awful lot of work has gone into an effort to prove them fraudulent and all such efforts have fallen short of the mark so far. Not proving them fraudulent is, of course, not the same as proving them genuine. For this to happen, there will have to be other supporting documentation forthcoming, or some kind of confirmation from the government. At this point, pending the final report of Stan Friedman, there is really not much to do with MJ-12 other than put it aside and wait for further developments, when and if they occur. This leads me to the same conclusions as yours: that Roswell is the place for ufology to be concentrating its efforts right now.

You are one of the few persons who seem to recognize that the most significant part of MJ-12 is Donald Menzel. If MJ-12 is a hoax, then it is obvious that the hoaxer is well-versed in ufology. Even a very well-versed hoaxer, however, is unlikely to have been aware of the secret life of Donald Menzel, as discovered by Stan Friedman subsequent to the appearance of the MJ-12 briefing document (*IUR*, January/February 1988). Logically, although not absolutely, this leaves us with some sort of individual who was or is highly placed within the government's UFO cover-up hierarchy and who would have had access to the information about Menzel's secret life. This leads to all kinds of interesting questions to which we do not have answers.

Gene Maron
Merrick, New York

To the editor:

Your "Wild Goose" editorial (September/October 1989) set me thinking that perhaps the same thing that happened in the recent EBE case could have happened in the much earlier Roswell case. By this I mean that the EBE case appears to have been either an attempt at disinformation or an experiment in the effects of disinformation. Isn't it, then, at least conceivable that the Roswell case has a prosaic explanation but that the intelligence agencies decided to make it into a longterm experiment in disinformation?

This is, of course, nothing more than rank speculation — just another of the unlimited possibilities.

John Logajan
Arden Hills, Minnesota